



Police prepare to push back against protesters Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018, in Portland, Ore.

Associated Press
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European allies uneasy as U.S. restores Iran sanctions

By SUSANNAH GEORGE

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Trump administration readies to re-impose sanctions on Iran that were lifted under the 2015 nuclear accord, America's European allies fear greater regional instability.

President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the landmark agreement, signed by the U.S. and five other world powers, remains one of the most consequential foreign policy decisions of his presidency.

Trump administration officials say the sanctions are being restored starting Monday in an effort to change the Iranian regime's behavior. "They're the world's largest state sponsor of terror," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told Indonesian television in an interview Sunday. "That's what America is trying to get Iran to stop doing. That's the behavioral change that we're looking for from the Iranian regime." But many U.S. allies believe that language is code for regime change, according to two European diplomats involved in negotiations with the Trump administration over how sanctions would be re-imposed.

The sanctions that go back into effect on Monday cover Iranian trade in automobiles and metals, including gold. The U.S. also has banned imports of Iranian products such as carpets and pistachios and revoked licenses that allowed Iran to purchase U.S. and European aircraft. Iran acquired five new European commercial planes on Sunday before the sales were cut off.

The last and most significant sanctions — those on



In this July 30, 2018, photo, an Iranian street money exchanger holds a U.S. banknote in downtown Tehran, Iran.

Associated Press

Iran's oil sector and central bank — will be restored on Nov. 4. Iranian oil sales are a crucial source of hard currency.

The nuclear deal lifted international sanctions in exchange for Iran agreeing to restrictions on its nuclear program. U.N. inspectors said Iran was complying with the deal, but Trump argued that it didn't do enough to curb Iran's malign activity in the region. Trump administration officials also argued that be-

cause the U.S. lifted sanctions against Iran as part of the agreement, it in effect stripped Washington of one of its most powerful tools to penalize Tehran.

European countries say they remain committed to the agreement, seeing it as the surest way to safeguard their national security.

The problem is: What next?" one of the European diplomats said, referring to concerns that the U.S. is eyeing regime change as the sanctions' end goal. Both

diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity, as they were not authorized to brief the media on ongoing negotiations.

If the re-imposed sanctions caused the government in Tehran to collapse, Iran would likely devolve into civil war like what unfolded in Syria or radicals would assume power, the diplomat said.

A deepening of Iran's economic crisis could also lead to an influx of refugees and migrants into Europe like

that seen on the heels of the Syrian conflict.

Pompeo laid out the strategy behind the sanctions in his first major address as secretary of state.

"Iran will be forced to make a choice: either fight to keep its economy off life support at home or keep squandering precious wealth on fights abroad. It will not have the resources to do both," he said in May. Supporters of the Iran agreement have long argued that the U.S. departure would alienate European allies who partnered with the U.S. in the negotiations.

We "remain firmly committed to ensuring (the deal) is upheld and we continue to abide by our commitments," the second European diplomat said. "If we cannot fulfill these, this risks Iran deciding that it no longer has to abide by the restrictions."

Iran's economy was plunged into a downward spiral following Trump's announcement that the United States was scrapping the nuclear deal. The downturn has sparked waves of protests across Iran. □

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Oregon police chief orders review of use of force at protest

By **ANDREW SELSKY**
Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—Portland police were accused Sunday of being heavy-handed against people protesting a rally by extreme-right demonstrators, reportedly injuring some counter-protesters and prompting the city's new police chief to order a review of officers' use of force.

Police in riot gear tried to keep the two groups apart, many of whom had come on Saturday dressed for battle in helmets and protective clothing. Dozens of the extreme-right protesters were bussed to Portland, one of America's most liberal cities, from nearby Vancouver, Washington. Saturday's clashes were the most recent of several this year in the city as right-wing militants converged, met by counter-protesters, including members of anti-fascist, or "antifa," groups. City officials have struggled with striking a balance between free speech and keeping events from spiraling out of control.

But on Saturday, some said police seemed to act mostly against those protesting the presence of the extreme-right demonstrators, using stun grenades and what appeared to be rubber bullets against them. Police "targeted Portland residents peacefully counter-protesting against racist far-right groups, including white supremacists, white nationalists, and neo-Nazi gangs," the Oregon chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Portland chapter of

the Democratic Socialists of America said in a statement. It called on officials to investigate.

Police ordered the counter-protesters to disperse, then moved in behind a volley of stun grenades. One of the rounds reportedly hit a counter-protester in the head, becoming embedded in his helmet and injuring him. One woman was taken to a hospital after being hit in the arm and chest with a "flash-bang" grenade, local media reported. The blasts echoed through downtown Portland.

Four people were arrested. Police Chief Danielle Outlaw, who assumed command less than a year ago as Portland's first African-American female police chief, said in a statement Sunday she takes all use-of-force cases seriously. Outlaw directed the professional standards division to begin gathering evidence to determine if the force used was within policy and training guidelines. The Office of Independent Police Review will be provided with the information for review and investigation.

Saturday's incidents started with demonstrators aligned with Patriot Prayer and an affiliated group, the Proud Boys, gathering in a riverfront park. The Proud Boys has been characterized as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, which is "dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of society."

Hundreds of counter-demonstrators faced them from across the street, holding banners and signs with messages such as "Alt right scum not welcome in Portland." Some chanted "Nazis go home." Officers stood in the middle of a four-lane boulevard, essentially forming a wall to keep the two sides separated.

The counter-protesters were made up of a coalition of labor unions, immigrant rights advocates, democratic socialists and other groups. □



Protesters line up Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018, in Portland, Ore. Small scuffles broke out Saturday as police in Portland, Oregon, deployed "flash bang" devices and other means to disperse hundreds of right-wing and self-described anti-fascist protesters.
Associated Press



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Slow rollout, more fine print with Trump health care options

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says insurers are "going wild" about his new health care options and "millions and millions" of people will be signing up.

But insurance companies say it will take time to design new plans and get approval from state regulators, and two major industry groups have actually expressed concern about potential downsides for consumers.

For people who need an individual policy and are anticipating cheaper plans this fall, the advice seems to be: Look carefully and read the fine print.

Short-term, limited-duration insurance— just approved — and association health plans represent the Trump administration alternatives to comprehensive but costly policies under the Affordable Care Act. Both offer lower premiums than comprehensive health insurance but also cover less. The plans won't be sold through HealthCare.gov.

Myra Simon of the industry group America's Health Insurance Plans said consumers are likely to see advertising this fall for short-term plans but association plans may be harder to find, since they're not open to everybody. Policyholders must have a common link, such as working in an industry like real estate.

"The short timeline may mean that this fall we aren't going to see all the products we are eventually going to see," said Simon, an expert on individual health insurance. "We might see some more heavy marketing of products that already existed."

Jeff Smedrud, CEO of Pivot Health, which offers short-



In this Sept. 26, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump responds to a reporter's question on health care after arriving at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York.

Associated Press

term plans, says companies are behind the curve on updating their plans to account for the greater leeway provided by the Trump administration. He's forecasting "minor improvements" in plans by October but "a lot of change in 2019."

Strictly speaking, short-term and association health plans are not new. The Trump administration has broadened their potential reach, although some states may push back with restrictions.

Short-term plans don't have to take people with pre-existing medical conditions, or provide benefits like coverage for maternity, mental health, prescription drugs and substance abuse treatment. They can last up to 364 days and be renewed for up to 36 months. Association health plans do have to accept people

with pre-existing medical conditions, but they don't have to cover the full menu of 10 "essential" kinds of benefits required by the ACA. On the whole, association health plans have more federal consumer safeguards than short-term plans.

Speaking at the White House last month, Trump almost made it sound like there's going to be a stampede to get the new plans. "So all of the insurance companies are going wild, they want to get it," he said of association health plans. "You're going to have great health care at a much lower price."

As for short-term insurance, "somewhat different, result the same," Trump said. "Much less expensive health care at a much lower price; will cost our country nothing."

That's not what the indus-

try's saying.

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association warned that "the broader availability and longer duration of slimmed-down policies that do not provide comprehensive coverage has the potential to harm consumers."

And America's Health Insurance Plans, the main trade group, said, "We remain concerned that consumers who rely on short-term plans for an extended time period will face high medical bills when they need care that isn't covered or exceed their coverage limits."

Under the Obama-era health law, consumer complaints centered on high premiums, particularly for middle-class people not eligible for its income-based subsidies.

But the fear of being turned down because of a pre-

existing condition faded away. So did worries about being denied coverage for certain kinds of care, like substance abuse treatment. And insurers were forbidden from imposing annual and lifetime dollar limits on coverage.

Now concerns about such fine print will be back, particularly with short-term plans.

Some consumers may be willing to gamble, figuring that if they get sick they can always switch to comprehensive coverage at HealthCare.gov with an ACA plan.

Not so fast, said Simon, the individual insurance expert. With some exceptions, people can only sign up for ACA plans during open enrollment season from Nov. 1-Dec. 15. If someone in your family later gets diagnosed with a serious mental illness, for example, you might have to wait months to get them into a comprehensive plan that will cover that condition.

"It's not simple to move back and forth," said Simon.

Another potential surprise: Gary Claxton of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation says short-term plans may turn out to be more costly than Trump administration officials suggest. The plans now cover up to 90 days, but if insurers expand them to offer up to 36 months' coverage, the companies will be taking on more risk.

"You'll have to pay more up front because there's a longer time during which you could get sick," Claxton said.

That's correct, confirmed Smedrud, the insurance CEO. "The longer you cover somebody, the more likely it is you are going to have a claim," he explained. □

Rescuers search for crashed plane in Alaska national park

By ANDREW SELSKY

Peering through low cloud cover, rescuers aboard a military aircraft on Sunday were attempting to find a sightseeing plane that crashed with the pilot and four passengers aboard a day earlier in Alaska, high on a mountain ridge in Denali National Park and Preserve.

The pilot reported on his satellite phone Saturday that there were injuries, but authorities couldn't get details before the satellite connection dropped. Some 20 hours after the de Havilland Beaver plane went down around 6 p.m. near the summit of 10,900-foot (3,300-meter) -high Thunder Mountain, there was still no word on their condition.

The tourists, whose identities and nationalities have not been released, and pilot had to spend the night on the mountain.

"There's definitely low cloud cover," park spokeswoman Katherine Belcher said in a telephone interview. "We're waiting for an update from the HC-130 crew that's up

in the air."

Thunder Mountain is a knife-edge ridge rising about 3,000 feet (915 meters) above two glaciers, 14 miles (23 kilometers) southwest of the summit of Denali, North America's highest peak. The plane was reportedly carrying sleeping bags, a stove, a pot, food and first-aid kit, Belcher said in a statement.

An Air Guard HC-130 was flying over coordinates that came from the plane's emergency locator transmitter and were offered by the pilot, said Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead of the Alaska National Guard. The plane's ELT beacon alerted the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center around 6 p.m. Saturday.

"Searchers don't have eyes on aircraft yet because of cloud cover between them and the aircraft," Olmstead said Sunday.

An Air Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter with a rescue crew, a National Park Service helicopter and another plane owned by the private tour company, K2 Aviation, that operates the



In this Aug. 26, 2016, file photo sightseeing buses and tourists are seen at a pullout popular for taking in views of North America's tallest peak, Denali, in Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska.

Associated Press

downed plane can help with the search, Olmstead said.

A spokeswoman for K2 Aviation said she had no comment. The company, based in Talkeetna, Alaska, offers glacier landings.

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nali National Park are like no others in the world. Beneath the towering mountain peaks, you'll understand why these immense ice fields attract people from all over the globe," K2 Aviation says on its website. □

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Texas Republicans squelch 'red flag' gun law prospects

By JIM VERTUNO

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas schools have been adding metal detectors and armed personnel in an effort to improve campus security in response to the deadly May attack at a Houston-area high school that left eight students and two teachers dead.

Among the steps that Texas apparently won't be taking anytime soon is tightening restrictions on gun access for people deemed dangerous to themselves or others.

In the aftermath of the May 18 attack at Santa Fe High School, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott suggested that Texas should look for ways to keep guns away from people who pose "an immediate danger to oth-



In this May 18, 2018, file photo, law enforcement officers respond to Santa Fe High School after an active shooter was reported on campus in Santa Fe, Texas.

Associated Press

ers," which is the point of so-called red flag laws like those passed by six states since the February massacre at a high school in Parkland, Florida.

But faced with criticism from gun enthusiasts in the country's largest conservative state, Abbott — who gets top ratings from the National Rifle Association

— later clarified that he was only suggesting such laws be part of a broader conversation about school security and that he thinks there's growing opposition to the idea of gun restrictions. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Texas Senate, was even more forceful. "I have never supported these policies, nor has the majority of the Texas Senate," he said minutes after the last in a series of state Senate hearings on gun violence.

The one-two punch by the state's top Republicans drew cheers from gun rights advocates in a state that has more than 1.2 million handgun license holders and allows the open carry in public of handguns and long rifles.

While they vary from state to state, red flag laws generally allow law enforcement or family members to ask a judge to order the seizure or surrender of guns from someone who is deemed dangerous, often because of mental health concerns or threats of violence. About a dozen states have red flag laws, including Republican-led Florida, which passed its law following the Parkland school attack.

Texas can deny a handgun license based on a person's mental health history, but that restriction applies to the license to carry a handgun, not buying one. The state can seize weapons from people determined to be in a mental crisis in some circumstances.

Some gun rights activists worry that expanding red flag laws would allow the government to seize someone's guns based on the suspicion of a threat or a false report without that person having acted violently.

"Red flag laws are nothing more than ways to take guns out of the hands of law-abiding persons on nothing more than mere suspicion," said C.J. Grisham, leader of gun rights group Open Carry Texas, which has pushed to reduce gun restrictions for years. "You never get good

policy when you base it off of emotion."

Abbott's suggestion after the Santa Fe attack that Texas should consider keeping guns away from people who pose an immediate danger to others surprised many because neither he nor any of the state's Republican leaders even suggested tightening gun laws after last November's massacre at a church in Sutherland Springs, near San Antonio.

Police said the teenage suspect in the Santa Fe shooting took his father's weapons and that there hadn't been any prior reports that he may have been mentally ill. But a red flag law might have helped in the church shooting. The Air Force failed to properly notify federal law enforcement agencies of the gunman's previous felony domestic violence conviction and the gunman had spent time at a mental health hospital in New Mexico.

Shortly after the Santa Fe school shooting, Abbott held meetings with law enforcement officials, educators, mental health experts, attack survivors and victims' family members. A gun control group, Texas Gun Sense, got a seat next to the governor. On his other side was the Texas State Rifle Association, the state arm of the NRA.

Few expected major gun control proposals. But after years of watching Texas lawmakers make it easier and cheaper to get a handgun license and carry weapons in public, gun control advocates felt like finally they had a foot in the door, only to get it crushed again.

Advocates for red flag laws say they can help prevent violence before it starts, unlike armed teachers and school marshals, who can react after an attack has already begun. Abbott's 43-page school safety and gun violence plan focused on getting more armed guards and personnel on campus, improving gun storage safety laws and boosting mental health screenings. □



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Brown asks Trump for wildfire aid as state battles 17 blazes

By PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Gov. Jerry Brown on Saturday called on President Donald Trump to help California fight and recover from another devastating wildfire season.

Brown, who inspected neighborhoods wiped out by a wildfire in the Northern California city of Redding, said he was confident the president he has clashed with over immigration and pollution policies would send aid, which Trump did last year when California's wine country was hit hard. "The president has been pretty good on helping us in disasters, so I'm hopeful," said Brown, a Democrat. "Tragedies bring people together."

Brown's call for help came shortly before authorities called on residents in Glenn and Colusa counties in Northern California to evacuate as a wildfire there continues to grow.

Cal Fire issued the evacuation order Saturday night for people who live in several parts of the counties, including an area just east of the boundary of Mendocino National Forest. The blaze, known as the Mendocino Complex fire, has grown to 357 square miles and is 32 percent contained, according to Cal Fire.

The National Weather Service forecasts hot and windy conditions to persist in Northern California.

There are 17 major fires burning throughout California, authorities said. In

all, they have destroyed hundreds of homes, killed eight people — including four firefighters — and shut down Yosemite National Park.

Hundreds of colleagues, family and friends attended a memorial service Saturday in Fresno for National Forest Service Capt. Brian Hughes, the Fresno Bee reported. Hughes was killed July 29 by a falling tree while fighting the wildfire that has closed Yosemite National Park at the height of tourist season.

Firefighters have achieved 41 percent containment of that forest fire.

The fire had reached into remote areas of the country's third-oldest national park. Workers who live in Yosemite's popular Valley region were ordered to leave Friday because of inaccessible roads.

The biggest blazes continue to burn north of San Francisco, including twin wildfires fueled by dry vegetation and hot, windy weather. Those fires destroyed 55 homes and forced thousands of residents to flee their neighborhoods about 100 miles (161 kilometers) north of the city. They have grown to a combined 300 square miles (648 kilometers).

The two fires have charred an area of the forested, rural area five times the size of San Francisco and were only 27 percent contained. Thousands of people remain evacuated.

The National Weather Service issued red flag warnings of critical fire weather

conditions through Saturday night, saying a series of dry low-pressure systems passing through the region could bring wind gusts of up to 35 mph (56 kph) that could turn small fires or even sparks into racing walls of flames.

"This is a particularly dangerous situation with extremely low humidity and high winds. New fires will grow rapidly out of control, in some cases people may not be able to evacuate safely in time should a fire approach," the weather



A tower of smoke pours from Cow Mountain as Burney, California firefighter Bob May keeps a watch on surrounding vegetation for spot fires during a wildfire off Scotts Valley Road, Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018, near Lakeport, Calif.

Associated Press

service said in its bulletin for the Mendocino area north of San Francisco.

Meteorologist Steve Anderson said temperatures will remain in the 90s in the re-

gion throughout the week with wind gusts reaching 25 mph (40 kph) during the day Sunday.

"It's not good firefighting weather," Anderson said. □

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Digging up Franco: Spain divided over dictator's legacy

By ARITZ PARRA

MADRID (AP) — Even in his grave, the 20th-century dictator who ruled Spain with an iron fist keeps dividing the country.

Spain's new center-left government says removing the embalmed body of Gen. Francisco Franco from a glorifying mausoleum will be the first among many symbolic moves aimed at coming to terms with the country's troubled history. Critics of the government and Franco's descendants are pushing back, vowing to preserve the memory of a regime they claim should be credited for "modernizing Spain."

Banning the foundation that preserves the legacy of Franco is precisely what should be done instead, says Fernando Martinez, the official appointed to oversee the government's efforts to unearth and identify the 114,000-or-so victims of the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War and the four decades of dictatorship that followed under Franco, who died in 1975.

"Exhuming the body of the dictator will begin healing the wounds of this country. But that task will only be completed when the last ditch with a mass grave

In this photo taken on Friday, July 13, 2018, people stand around the tomb of former Spanish dictator Francisco Franco inside the basilica at the Valley of the Fallen monument near El Escorial, outside Madrid.

Associated Press

in this country has been opened," Martinez told The Associated Press, speaking at the Ministry of Justice in Madrid, where his new Directorate General for Historic Memory is being formed.

Martinez says creating an up-to-date census of anonymous burials in ditches across the country will be among the most pressing tasks for Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's new government. Other moves include

re-opening an office to help victims' relatives — an office closed under Spain's previous conservative government — setting up a new system for reparation payments and turning Franco's current burial place into a museum against fascism.

"We are going to accelerate and make up for lost time, it's a question of democratic dignity," says Martinez, who was appointed in July after Sanchez ousted conservative Mariano Ra-

joy with a no-confidence vote in June.

Three U.N.-sponsored missions to Spain since 2013 had criticized authorities for lacking a national plan to search for missing people, for poor coordination on exhumations and for outdated maps of graves. They also raised concerns about the inaction of Spanish courts in prosecuting some of the period's darkest crimes.

But a panel of U.N. rights experts just recently praised the authorities' move for "placing the right to truth at the top of the political agenda" by leading the efforts to search for those disappeared as well as for vowing to create a Truth Commission to investigate crimes that occurred under Franco up until his death.

"This decision represents a

fundamental step toward the realization of the right to truth for all victims of serious human rights violations," the rapporteurs wrote.

The government wants to adopt the changes by amending the 2007 Historic Memory Law, which fell short of addressing the demands of survivors and victims' relatives when Rajoy's conservative government eliminated its budgets for exhumations and reparations.

Emilio Silva, president of the Association for the Recovery of Historic Memory, or ARMH, says the new government should use its executive powers to remove Franco from the Valley of the Fallen — a macabre mausoleum 50 kilometers (31 miles) northwest of Madrid. He also wants the government to dig up all the graves of Franco's victims, rather than kicking off a grand political showdown between conservative and progressive voices in parliament. "They fear a legal backlash," Silva said of the government. But he called digging up unmarked graves and compensating the relatives of identified victims "very basic, human things. There shouldn't be any need to discuss them." With a towering 150-meter (500-foot) tall cross that can be seen from miles away, the somber neoclassic-style mausoleum and basilica of the Valley of the Fallen were built by Franco as a tribute to the dead during his so-called "glorious crusade" in overthrowing Spain's democratic government. □

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Italy's FM visits Egypt, first since killing of researcher

By SAMY MAGDY

CAIRO (AP) — Italy's foreign minister said Sunday he was pleased to hear from Egyptian officials that they are committed to completing an investigation into the 2016 killing of an Italian graduate student in the capital Cairo with a "concrete result."

Enzo Moavero Milanesi arrived in Egypt on the first visit by a top Italian diplomat since the death of Giulio Regeni. His trip comes on the heels of a visit last month by Italian Interior Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini.

Milanesi met with Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry in Cairo. He said at a news conference with Shoukry that they discussed "important" topics including Libya, illegal migration and the controversial death of Regeni.

"I was pleased to hear from the minister and also the Egyptian government strong willingness to bring judicial inquiry to concrete result," he said of the Regeni case. "We are confident that justice will be brought in this really tragic and painful case."

Regeni, 28, was a Cambridge University doctoral student researching labor movements in Egypt when he was abducted on Jan. 25, 2016. His body was found along a roadside several days later bearing marks of extensive torture, of the kind that activists and rights groups say is widespread within Egyptian detention facilities.

The case roiled Cairo's relations with Rome, with Regeni's family and Italian media accusing Egyptian security forces of torturing and killing him. Italy withdrew its ambassador

in April 2016, saying Egypt was not cooperating in an Italian investigation. An ambassador returned last September.

Egypt's security services have denied any involvement in Regeni's abduction or death. "We have been working hard to overcome the challenge that (Egyptian-Italian) relations have faced," Shoukry said.

El-Sissi repeated a pledge to the Italian minister that Egypt would help bring Regeni's killers to justice, according to a statement by his office.

Since Regeni's body was found, the Egyptian government has suggested several alternative scenarios for his death.

It initially claimed Regeni was killed by gang members after security forces killed five members of a kidnapping crew in a raid and circulated photos of Regeni's ID cards officials said were found at the scene. That explanation was widely dismissed, including in the Italian media, which has closely followed the case.

The Egyptian president and his government routinely blame unnamed parties for the country's woes. Earlier this year, el-Sissi cast aside the gang killing theory and accused unnamed parties of killing Regeni in a failed plot to sabotage Egyptian-Italian relations.

Regeni's research would have drawn scrutiny from security agencies. He went missing in central Cairo when police were out in force to prevent protests on the fifth anniversary of the 2011 uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak. His main contact in the unofficial street vendors' union later said he told police that Regeni was a spy.

Egyptian and Italian investigators have been working together to retrieve surveillance footage from the Cairo subway system as part of a joint investigation. They said in June that footage from the system on the day of Regeni's disappearance does not include images of him. However, there are gaps in the footage which need "further sophisticated examination," they said. □



Italian Foreign Minister Enzo Moavero Milanesi, meets with his Egyptian counterpart, Sameh Shoukry, at Tahrir Palace, in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018.

Associated Press

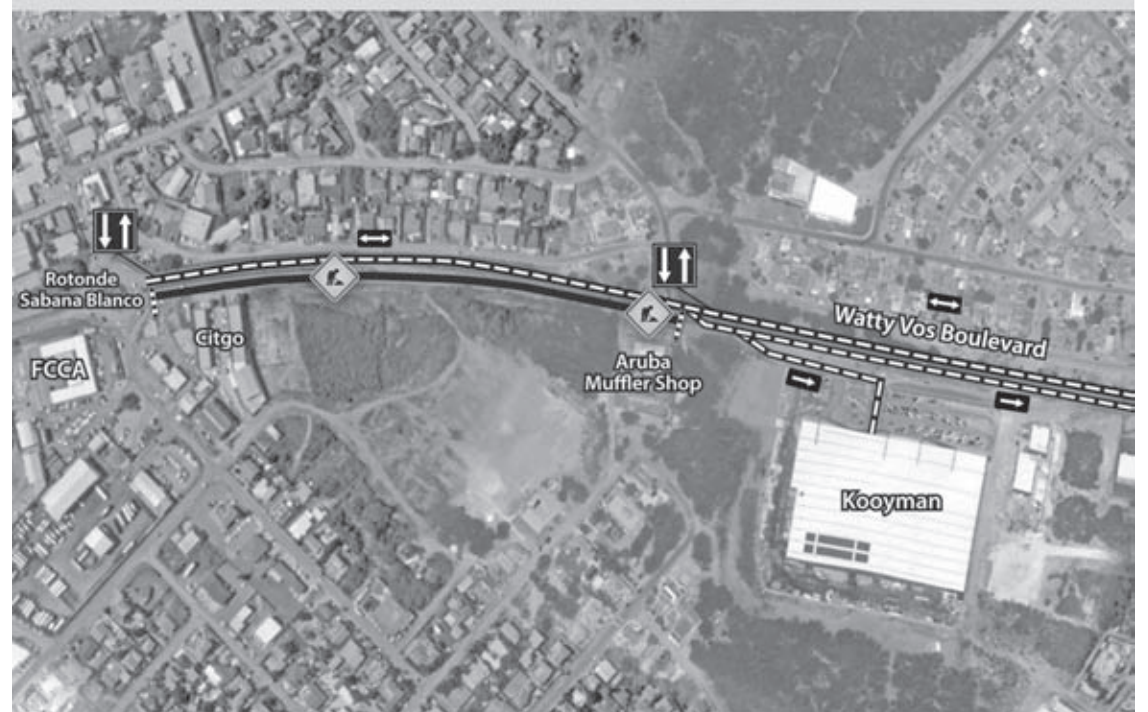


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Vintage plane crashes in Swiss Alps, killing 20 on board

By **GEIR MOULSON**

BERLIN (AP) — Determining why a vintage plane crashed in the Swiss Alps will be challenging since the 79-year-old aircraft did not have black boxes and was traveling in an area without frequent radar readings when it plunged into a mountain, killing all 20 of the people on board, investigators said Sunday. The Junkers Ju-52 plane, operated by Swiss company Ju-Air, moved at a near-vertical angle before it hit the Piz Segnas mountain while carrying 17 passengers and three crew members, police and the head of the country's transportation safety agency said. The victims were 11 men and nine women between the ages of 42 and 84—



This photo shows the wreckage of the old-time propeller plane Ju 52 after it went down Saturday Aug. 4 2018 on the Piz Segnas mountain above the Swiss Alpine.

Associated Press

seven couples from various parts of Switzerland, a couple from neighboring Austria and their son, and the three crew members. Their names were not released.

The fully booked propeller plane, built in 1939 and retired by Switzerland's air force in 1981, was flying the passengers back to its base at Duebendorf, near Zurich, from a two-day trip to the Italian-speaking Ticino region. It crashed shortly before 5 p.m. Saturday, less than 50 minutes after taking off from Locarno's Magadino airfield.

The plane had two pilots. Police said they have not found any evidence a distress call was made before it crashed.

Photos released by Graubunden canton (state) police showed the crumpled wreckage of the plane lying on the mountain located above the Alpine resort of Flims. Only its upside-down tail appeared more or less intact.

"We can assume that the aircraft hit the ground near-vertically and at relatively high speed," Daniel Knecht of the Swiss Transportation Safety Investigation Board said Sunday at a news conference in Flims.

He and senior police official Andreas Tobler said the Ju-52, an early passenger plane that was enlisted for military transport duty dur-

ing World War II, lacked "black boxes," the crash-resistant cockpit voice and data recorders that more modern aircraft have.

Officials expect the investigation of the cause to be "relatively complex, because we have to compare various indications, information and evidence and evaluate them," Knecht said.

There also are typically few radar recordings in mountainous areas such as the one where the crash site is located, he added.

Officials can essentially rule out a collision with another aircraft or an obstacle such as a wire, Knecht said. There also was no indication of any "external influence," he said, indicating that authorities don't suspect foul play.

The plane did not catch on fire before or after it hit the mountain, and investigators have not found any signs the aircraft lost parts or broke up in the air before the crash, Knecht said. The area around the crash site, which is popular with hikers and skiers and includes a glacier, was closed to the public. Knecht said authorities would probably need "a few days" to complete recovery work.

Officials appeared dubious about suggestions that unusually hot weather in Switzerland, like other parts of Europe, might have been a main cause of the crash. Knecht said that while heat can affect an aircraft's performance, experienced pilots could deal with that. Knecht also dismissed the idea that the plane's age was necessarily a problem. "Older planes, if they are correctly maintained, can be operated safely," he said.

Nearly 5,000 Ju-52 planes,

a product of Germany's Junkers, were manufactured between 1932 and 1952.

Ju-Air started operating flights with the vintage prop planes in 1983, and the plane that crashed — with the registration HB-HOT — had been in service with the company since 1985.

The company offers "adventure flights" for people wanting to experience Switzerland's landscape from vintage planes. A brochure on its website listed the cost of the 2-day Locarno trip as 1,130 francs (\$1,136), including meals and a night in a hotel.

Ju-Air chief executive and co-founder Kurt Waldmeier said the planes "are flown exclusively by very experienced professional pilots, and strictly checked and maintained by our own technicians."

The one that crashed had logged 10,187 hours of flying time, he said, adding that it underwent maintenance after every 35 hours of flight — most recently at the end of July. He said it had its full annual service during the winter, and "we know of no technical problems with this aircraft."

The pilots, who were 62 and 63-years-old, both had extensive experience with the Ju-52 and had long worked as airline and Swiss air force pilots, Waldmeier said.

The aircraft have three engines, one on the nose and one on each wing. Waldmeier said the pilots fly by sight along pre-planned routes.

"We cannot yet explain what led to the tragic accident on Piz Segnas," he said.

The company, which operates two other Ju-52s, suspended flights until further notice after the crash. □

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f i t

Powerful quake rocks Indonesia's Lombok island, 39 dead

By ROS IDIN

ALI KOTARUMALOS

Associated Press

MATARAM, Indonesia (AP)

— A powerful earthquake struck the Indonesian tourist island of Lombok on Sunday, killing at least 39 people and shaking neighboring Bali, one week after another quake on Lombok killed more than a dozen.

The latest quake, which triggered a brief tsunami warning, damaged buildings as far away as Denpasar on Bali, including a department store and the airport terminal, where ceiling panels were shaken loose, authorities said.

Video showed screaming people running in panic from houses in a Bali neighborhood and vehicles rocking. On Lombok, soldiers and other rescuers carried injured people on stretchers and carpets to an evacuation center.

Muhammad Rum, head of the disaster management agency in West Nusa Tenggara province, which



Debris on top of a motorcycles after an earthquake in Bali, Indonesia, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018.

Associated Press

includes Lombok, told Indonesian TV the death toll had risen to 39. Earlier, officials had said at least three people had died.

The quake, recorded at magnitude 7.0 by the U.S. Geological Survey, struck early Sunday evening at a

depth of 10.5 kilometers (6 miles) in the northern part of Lombok.

"I was watching TV when I felt a big shake," said Harian, a Lombok woman who uses one name. "The lamp was shaking and people were shouting 'Get out.'"

I ran out into the dark because the power cut off."

A tsunami warning was lifted after waves just 15 centimeters (6 inches) high were recorded in three villages, said the head of Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophys-

ics Agency, Dwikorita Karnawati.

Iwan Asmara, a Lombok disaster official, said frightened people poured out of their homes to move to higher ground, particularly in North Lombok and Mataram, the capital of West Nusa Tenggara province.

The Bali and Lombok airports continued operating Sunday night, according to the director general of civil aviation.

There had been a half hour evacuation at the Lombok airport following the quake because the electricity went off. TV showed crying women consoling each other outside Lombok's airport.

The island was already reeling from a magnitude 6.4 quake on July 29, which killed 16 people.

Like Bali, Lombok is known for pristine beaches and mountains. Hotels and other buildings in both locations are not allowed to exceed the height of coconut trees. □

Student protests surge in Bangladesh capital

Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)

— Thousands of angry young people took to the streets of Bangladesh's capital again Sunday to demand safer streets, facing police firing tear gas and pro-government activists who attacked them with clubs. Protests have flared repeatedly in Dhaka since two students were killed

last week by speeding buses. The pro-government activists, members of a political youth league, also attacked at least five journalists, including an Associated Press photographer who was briefly hospitalized with a head injury. Footage of the attack on social media showed him surrounded and beaten by nearly a dozen men in the city's

Dhanmondi neighborhood. The protests have become a serious embarrassment to the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ahead of a general election due in December. Her party is blaming the main opposition, led by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, for using the student anger to create chaos for political gains. Political feuding



Bangladeshi students participate in a protest in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018.

Associated Press

between the two political leaders has dominated Bangladesh's politics for more than a decade. □

Witnesses describe drone attack in Venezuela; 6 arrested

By SCOTT SMITH
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Investigators searched a blackened apartment building Sunday where witnesses described seeing a drone and then hearing a thunderous explosion in what President Nicolas Maduro called an assassination attempt by the embattled nation's opposition. Authorities said they have arrested six people suspected in Saturday's failed attack with two explosives-laden drones.

Opposition leaders decried Maduro for broadly singling out his political opponents for the attack without providing any evidence, and they warned that he may use it to further suppress those critical of his government at a time of a crippling economic and humanitarian crisis.

The government denounced the attack as an attempt to kill not only Maduro but an entire rank of the government's top leadership that was standing beside him on a platform to celebrate the National Guard's 81st anniversary.

In a stern message on state television, Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez said anyone who attacks Venezuela "will be met with a forceful response."

As is often the case in Venezuela, accounts of exactly what happened remained murky. Govern-



In this photo, security personnel surround Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro during an incident as he was giving a speech in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018.

Associated Press

ment officials offered few new details, saying only that the incident involved two drones, one of which crashed into an apartment building two blocks from where Maduro was speaking.

Of the six arrested, Interior Minister Nestor Reverol said two had previously been detained in street protests. Venezuela has been periodically rocked by demonstrations over shortages of food and medical supplies that officials claim incite

violence.

Two witnesses who live in nearby apartment buildings say they saw a drone hovering over a residential street and then heard a forceful explosion.

Maerum Gonzalez said she ran in terror to her fifth-floor balcony and then heard a second explosion and saw smoke rising.

"It was so strong the building shook," she said. "I said, 'Oh my God, what happened? It terrified me.'"

Another witness showed

The Associated Press cell-phone video of a drone hovering over the street and then crashing into a building. The witness, who did not want to be identified for fear of reprisal, said he then saw the drone fall to the ground, setting off an explosion.

The witness said he saw police arrest a man purported to be piloting the drone.

Information Minister Jorge Rodriguez said the incident took place shortly after 5:30 p.m. Saturday as Maduro

was delivering a televised speech to hundreds of soldiers. He and his wife, Cilia Flores, looked up at the sky and winced after hearing an explosion.

Visibly shaken, he later said in a televised broadcast that he saw a "flying device" that exploded. He at first thought it might be a pyrotechnics display.

Within seconds, Maduro said he heard a second blast and pandemonium broke out. Bodyguards escorted him from the event, covering him in black shields, and TV footage showed uniformed soldiers break formation and scatter.

Maduro, a deeply unpopular president who was recently elected to a new term in an internationally condemned vote, later gave an impassioned re-telling of the event.

"This was an attempt to kill me," he said.

Maduro said the "far right" working in coordination with detractors in Bogota and Miami, including Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, were responsible. Colombia's government has vehemently denied that Santos had any participation in the drone attack.

The Broad Front opposition alliance accused the government of leaping to assumptions and of making "irresponsible" accusations castigating all the opposition without any proof. □



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PALM BEACH — The "Aruba Ray's Comedy" features some of the funniest American standup comedians in a terrific 90-minute show. Celebrating five year's of Excellence in Aruba, Aruba Ray's Comedy is the number one rated Night Time Activity on TripAdvisor, the number one rated Show on TripAdvisor, and the number one rated Fun Activity on TripAdvisor.

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USA Today's "10 Best!" Advance tickets are suggested - - and are less expensive - - at www.ArubaComedy.com. This is the same caliber show you would find at the top comedy clubs in NYC. The comedians are truly some of the best from the United States, and perform in a relaxed, intimate setting at the Marriott.

In addition, there is an option to purchase a four-hour premium open bar for only

\$20. This wonderful show is a great way to spend a night out. Top American standup comics perform in Aruba Ray Ellin's phenomenal show at the Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino!

Ray Ellin hosts and produces the shows. Considered by his peers to be the best host in NYC, Ray is known as "Aruba Ray" because of his passion for Aruba. Ray has been coming to Aruba every month for the past six

years, and produces and hosts these incredible comedy shows on the island. He is a popular comedian in New York, and has brought his talent and colleagues to Aruba.

Ray has appeared on many television programs; he has hosted the popular talk show Late Net, and hosted the television shows The Movie Loft, Brain Fuel, and New York Now. He also produced and direct-

ed the very successful film The Latin Legends of Comedy, distributed by 20th Century Fox.

Ray is executive producer and is co-starring in the new television show This Week at the Cellar, which will premiere on Comedy Central on October 26th. The shows are at 8.30 pm, every night, from July 8th to August 10th, in the Amsterdam Ballroom at the Marriott Resort, down the hall from the casino. Doors open at 8pm.

It is suggested to arrive early - seating is first come first serve. The showroom is intimate - - it is suggested you purchase tickets in advance at www.ArubaComedy.com. You can also purchase tickets (subject to availability!) at the Amsterdam Ballroom showroom door at 7.30 pm. Anyone can attend, however the show is suggested for a mature audience. Ask your concierge for assistance, or call the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino at 520-6225, or call 749-4363.



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Aruba Marriott Congratulates Twenty Associates on Promotions and Transfers



PALM BEACH, ARUBA — As part of Marriott's core value "Putting People First", Aruba Marriott is proud to announce the internal promotion and transfer of twenty associates. Encouraging this important core value, Aruba Marriott strives to continuously train its associates and provide the necessary resources and tools to prepare them for their next career step and as a result confidently be able to promote within the company first.

The Aruba Marriott congratulates these twenty associates whom showed hard work and dedication and in return received the great opportunity of being promoted and transferred to the following positions during the 2nd quarter of 2018.

- Miangela Croes – Transferred from Human Resources Coordinator to Revenue Management Coordinator
- Visia Geerman – Transferred from Casino VIP Representative to Casino Slot Cash Attendant

- Carlos Thode – Transferred from Casino Income Auditor to Systems Technician
- Emanuel Julen – Transferred from Barbac to Bartender Captain's Galley
- Fernando Wouters – Transferred from Barbac to Bartender Captain's Galley
- Ray Richardson – Transferred from Activities Attendant to Barbac Captain's Galley
- Christian Portela – Promoted from Engineer II Shift to Engineering Supervisor
- Glenn d'Aguiar – Promoted from Assistant Recreation Manager to Recreation Manager MVW
- Shemuel Koolman – Promoted from Front Desk Supervisor to Assistant Rooms Operations Manager
- Dwight Lacle – Promoted from Systems Supervisor to Assistant Systems Manager
- Roberto Angela – Promoted from Engineer II to Engineer III
- Viviana Higuera – Promoted from Engineer II to Engineering Supervisor

- Sheena Robinson – Promoted from Front Desk Agent to Front Desk Supervisor
- Joanaila Palm – Promoted from Barista to F&B Supervisor Starbucks
- Cesar Miranda – Promoted from Cook I to Chef de Partie
- Raisa Tromp – Promoted from Cook I to Chef de Partie
- Aprille Garcia de Castro – Promoted from

- Front Desk Agent to Front Desk Supervisor
- Sibella Jansen – Promoted from Accounting Supervisor to Jr. Accountant
- Raveena Melwani – Promoted from Assistant Accounting Manager to Accounting Manager
- Tresinia Rodrigues – Promoted from Casino Pit Manager to Casino Operations Manager

"We are honored to share this great news with the local community as Marriott continues to provide equal opportunity to those seeking to jump start their career in the hospitality industry and continues to be committed to hiring a diverse workforce and sustaining an inclusive culture", shared Reuella Reeborg – Human Resources Manager.

For those interested in starting their career at the Aruba Marriott please visit www.marriott.com/careers to apply.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino opened its door in 1995 with 411 guestrooms. In 1999 the Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club opened its door with 311 guestrooms and in 2004 Marriott's Aruba Surf Club was opened with 900 guestrooms. The Aruba Marriott family consists of about 1100 associates. The Aruba Marriott Complex is the largest in the Caribbean in terms of total guestrooms as well total employees. □



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Honoring Ambassadors of Aruba

PALM BEACH — Recently, Ms. Emely Ridderstaat of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor a group of Loyal and Friendly visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.

The Honorees are Mr. David and Mrs. Patricia Roff and Mr Doug & Mrs. Erica Ahaesy as "Distinguished Visitor" with 10+ consecutive years coming to Aruba. And also the Creter Family, Mr. Richard Creter was honored as "Emerald Ambassador" with 35 consecutive years coming to Aruba and his wife and Daughters, Mrs. Sandra Creter and Ms. Emma & Ms. Lara Creter as "Goodwill Ambassador" with 20+ years coming to

Aruba. The honorees loves Aruba and can't wait for their next year vacation.

Ms. Emely Ridderstaat together with Mr. Francis Ridderstap of Divi Tamarijn presented the certificate to

the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their

vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □



Aruban born and bred Steve Francees has a passion for photography. Being a local photographer he knows the hidden gems of this island and captures them in an amazing way. As a Family and Landscape photographer Steve is ready to create your next 'vacation memories', morning and/or sunset shots. T: (297) 738-0777, M: stevefrancees@hotmail.com, www.instagram.com/stevefrancees and www.stevefrancees.com



Amazing Clouds at Malmok



I love clouds and the first thing I do in the morning is go outside and look at the clouds formation. Last week there was an orange cloud formation in the south at sunrise that looks like a sunset. Took this shot last month during the two days of rain and the cloud formation was very different as usual. For this shot I was standing on the cliff at Malmok.

LG Smith Blvd



Lloyd Gaston Smith (1891-1958) was the first president of the Lago Oil Refinery from 1933 - 1946, the government of Aruba inaugurated a bust of L. G. Smith in front of the Cultural Center on September 16, 1961. Also, this main road connecting the Airport with the Hotel area was named after him. The Mall in the picture is the Renaissance Mall.

Arashi Beach



Arashi is lovely at any time of the day. You can go in the morning, midday or at Sunset and you'll be amazed how colorful nature can be. The better colors is when the sun is shining direct on the beach and not through the clouds. Sun through the clouds gives a grey look but with direct sunlight you can capture the turquoise in the color gradient of the sea. I recommend you go twice to visit Arashi Beach during your stay, first in the morning and at Sunset, sure you will love it.

Aruba is for lovers



Many consider Aruba as a very romantic island and is also very good to jumpstart your love life. Beach is always a good scenery for romantic shots and that's why many come to Aruba to propose and almost 100% said yes! This is a post wedding shot I did last week of an Italian couple that came to Aruba for beach photo shoot.

Peaking Pizza



PALM BEACH - When it comes to indulging in pizza, we have become spoilt for choice as of late. But, there is a new kid on the block that has something different. Tomato Charlies Pizza, part of the Brickell Bay Beach Club & resort is a healthy choice. Yes, it is possible to crave for pizza and not feel blown up afterwards. Juan Keyter, General Manager of Brickell Bay Beach Club & Spa Hotel, explains us how and why.

"It is not your regular fatty pizza that is oily and fat with a lot of dough. We needed something different and with the owners and ourselves having a tie to Chicago, we went back to Chicago and found this place called Bull's Pizza. There we ate a low fat, thin crust pizza and the beautiful part of it is that it is literally almost like cracker bread. It does not blow you up and is made with low-gluten dough." This is exact the pizza Tomato Charlies offers. "The flower itself makes the difference as it is an unbleached flower. What that does is that it cannot rise. Same with the yeast, we use fresh yeast, NO powder yeast. This all together makes a big difference." All vegetables are fresh and cut every

morning, nothing is canned and the Italian sausage is brought in from Chicago as well as the pepperoni. The mozzarella cheese comes from Fabri, one of the largest suppliers out of Chicago and most of the top restaurants buy their cheeses here. "Our mozzarella is a low-fat one and from a very well-known quality."

Cheese Tops

When it comes to the menu we find a range of choices. The pizza comes 9, 12 or 14 inch. There are four signature pizzas with three or four toppings. "We choose not to overpower too many flavors, than it becomes just one big pot of soup and that would be too much. But, our toppings are extra-large toppings and therefore we offer square slices instead of the points, to prevent the toppings to drop." The red sauce Tomato Charlies uses has no sodium, again it does not blow you up and is much healthier. Another unique detail is that this place does not put your cheese under the sausage, but on top of it. "Why: taste and flavor stay locked in the melted cheese, the sausage just pops in your mouth. It fills the flavor between the red tomato base and the sausage, together with the

toppings you have a true pizza delight." Besides the signature pizza you can Build Your Own, choose Lasagna or one of the four sandwiches or even BBQ Chicken Wings.

Delivery on the Beach

Tomato Charlies has been here before, almost 14 years ago at the location of now Joe & Guiseppe Steakhouse. "An Italian Steakhouse that is the only

one in Aruba that brings in prime steaks, every single steak on our menu is prime steak, the best quality you will find in Aruba", Juan mentions on the sideline. Back to the pizza "Last year we made the decision to open Tomato Charlies again, upon a lot of request from the public. We chose for a take-out store, right in the Brickell Bay Mall. On weekends people go out and have a drink and

we stay open till 12 PM at night. It is an enjoyable pizza and you can still have something healthy. Also we do delivery at all high rise hotels from RIU to Marriott, between 5 PM until 12 AM. On the beach we deliver too! By sending a location from what's app, we will find you and deliver to your sun bed.

For more information:
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SPORTS



Chase Elliott celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018, in Watkins Glen, N.Y.

Chase Elliott wins at Watkins Glen, his first Cup victory

By JOHN KEKIS
WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. (AP) —

Like father, like son. Mired in a confounding losing streak since the start of his NASCAR Cup career in 2016, Chase Elliott finally broke into the win column Sunday, holding off road course ace Martin Truex Jr. at Watkins Glen.

The son of Hall of Famer Bill Elliott, who also won his first Cup race on a road course (Riverside in 1983 in his 124th start), Chase celebrated a triumph he will cherish forever. Out of fuel after the finish, he was pushed to victory lane by the banged-up No. 48 Chevy of seven-time Cup champion Jimmie Johnson, a teammate and one of his staunchest supporters, as his father raced to join the celebration after spotting.

Toss in the raucous cheers of the sellout crowd and it doesn't get much better than that. "It's something I'll never forget," said Elliott, who has finished second eight times in Cup.

Continued on Page 21

JUST IN TIME



Justin Thomas captures first WGC title at Bridgestone Invitational

Justin Thomas holds the The Gary Player Cup trophy after winning the final round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018, in Akron, Ohio.

Hall wins Women's British Open for 1st major title

LYTHAM ST. ANNES, England (AP) — Named in honor of a famous Masters victory, Georgia Hall has her hands on one of the big trophies in women's golf at the age of 22.

The Englishwoman reeled in long-time leader Pornanong Phatlum in a gripping final-round duel at Royal Lytham to win the Women's British Open for her first major title on Sunday.

Hall tapped in for a bogey — her first of the day — at the last hole to clinch a two-shot victory over Pornanong. Hall then hugged her playing partner from Thailand before being lifted off her feet by her caddie, father Wayne.

It was fitting that Wayne, a former two-handicapper himself, was on the bag to experience the biggest moment of his daughter's career.

Georgia was born during the 1996 Masters won by English golfer Nick Faldo at Augusta, Georgia. She was named in honor of that victory, which came after Faldo overcame a six-stroke deficit to Greg Norman in the final round.

Twenty-two years later, Hall is the pride of English golf just like Faldo was. And the way Hall kept her composure and kept producing the shots of her life down the stretch, there might be more major titles to come. Her round of 5-under 67, which included six birdies, saw her finish on 17-under 271.

"I was loving it deep down, hitting the shots under pressure," said Hall, who barely showed any emotions all round. "To get six birdies in the final round of a major is

not bad."

Hall, who receives a check of \$490,000, became the first English major winner since Karen Stupples won this event in 2004, and the fourth overall along with Laura Davies and Alison Nicholas.

She followed Stupples and Catriona Matthew — in 2009 at Lytham — as the only British winners of the Women's British Open since it achieved major status in 2001.

Roared on under blue skies by the large gallery desperate for a home winner, the 39th-ranked Hall started the day a shot behind Pornanong, who led after the second and third rounds.

From the moment Pornanong curled in a long left-to-right putt at the second hole to answer Hall's 15-foot birdie at the first, it had the makings of a duel in the Lytham sun.

And a two-player race for the year's fourth major was definitely established when both picked up a shot at No. 4 and Pornanong followed Hall in birdying No. 6. That regained a two-shot lead for Pornanong, who had also birdied the par-3 fifth hole.

Hall was always chasing but was given hope when Pornanong bogeyed No. 8 to reduce her lead to one shot. Then, when Hall rolled in a 10-foot birdie putt at No. 13, they were tied for the first time since the first hole.

Hall took the outright lead for the first time in the tournament after a 20-foot putt for birdie at the 16th hole and went down the last with a three-shot lead after Pornanong, ranked No. 97 and also seeking her

first major and LPGA title, missed a two-foot putt to make double-bogey at No. 17. Hall played safe in three-putting from distance in front of Royal Lytham's storied clubhouse and celebrated her first win on the LPGA Tour. She had never won on the Ladies European Tour, either.

"It is too good to be true," Hall said. "It was my goal when I was nine to win the British Open. I am so happy. "I just had to stay calm and patient. It was very close up to the last two holes and I holed all the putts today." Ryu So-yeon of South Korea was third on 13 under after a final-round 70. □



England's Georgia Hall kisses the trophy after winning the Women's British Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club, in Lytham, England, Sunday Aug. 5, 2018.

Associated Press

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Thomas doesn't break sweat in winning finale at Firestone



Justin Thomas reacts to his tee shot on the sixth hole during the final round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018, in Akron, Ohio.
Associated Press

By DOUG FERGUSON

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Justin Thomas took all the drama out of the final World Golf Championship at Firestone, never letting anyone closer than two shots and closing with a 1-under 69 to win the Bridgestone Invitational for his third PGA Tour title this season.

Sweeter than capturing his first World Golf Championship was the sight behind the 18th green Sunday.

His grandparents, Paul and Phyllis Thomas, watched him win for the first time on the PGA Tour. Paul Thomas was a career club professional and played at Firestone in the 1960 PGA Championship, missing the 54-hole cut. His son, Mike Thomas, also is a career club pro in Kentucky and a former PGA of America board member.

"I got a little choked up when I saw grandma and grandpa over there," Thomas said. "It's really cool. They don't get to come out very often."

They saw a one-man show. Playing in the final group with Rory McIlroy, the

25-year-old Thomas made only two birdies. That was all he needed on a day when just about everyone within range was making all the mistakes.

McIlroy finished the back nine with consecutive bogeys and never recovered. Ian Poulter shot 74. Jason Day tried to make a run by making three straight birdies, only to play the final six holes in 5 over to shoot 73. Tiger Woods, an eight-time winner at Firestone, started 11 shots behind and figured he would go out with a bang by playing aggressively. He turned in a dud, and a birdie on the 18th hole gave him another 73 to leave him 15 shots behind. "Things could have certainly gone better," Woods said. "But it is what it is, and on to next week."

Thomas must feel the same way. He had gone five months since his last victory, a playoff win at the Honda Classic. While he didn't feel as though he were playing poorly, he didn't have the results to back it up. Now he does, and Thomas heads to St. Louis next week for the PGA Championship, where he will try to join Woods as the only players to win back-to-back in stroke play. Woods did it twice.

Thomas had not had a score better than 67, and he had not finished higher than a tie for 28th in his two previous appearances at Firestone.

"I'm glad I finally played well around here, just in time to leave," he said.

Firestone has held tour events since the Rubber City Open in 1954. The World Series of Golf began in 1962, and it became an official PGA Tour event in 1976. In many respects, it was the precursor to the World Golf Championships by bringing in winners from around the world.

Bridgestone shifted its title sponsorship to the PGA Tour Champions, which will bring its Senior Players Championship to Firestone next year. The World Golf Championship instead will move to Memphis, Tennessee. Thomas finished at

15-under 265 for a four-shot victory over Kyle Stanley, who got within two shots of the lead until bogeys on the 13th and 14th holes. Stanley closed with a 68.

Dustin Johnson, the world's No. 1 player who was coming off a victory in the Canadian Open last week, started the final round 10 shots behind and shot 29 on the front nine. A birdie at No. 10 put him three shots behind, but that was all he had. Johnson bogeyed the last hole for a 64 and shared third with Thorbjorn Olesen of Denmark, who also had a 64.

U.S. Open champion Brooks Koepka had a 67 to finish fifth. McIlroy won at Bay Hill in March and has three runner-up finishes, and he had said Saturday afternoon he was tired of finishing second. Not to worry. His 73 gave him a tie for sixth.

Thomas becomes the 21st player to win a World Golf Championship and a major, and his three victories tie him with Johnson and Bubba Watson for most on the PGA Tour this year. The ninth victory of his career moves him to No. 2 in the world, with a shot to regain the No. 1 ranking next week at the PGA Championship. He set the tone early by hooking a pitching wedge over a steep lip in a fairway bunker to just short of the green and saving par with a 6-foot putt, then holing a 15-foot birdie putt on the par-5 second.

"It was big because I was really nervous today," Thomas said. "It felt like it had been a while, but I guess it hadn't really been that long. I don't know. I was very nervous, very jittery. To make that putt on 1 and again on 2 just kind of calmed me and got me going for the day." □

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CHASE ELLIOTT

Continued from Page 18

"I was going to do a burn-out, but I ran out of gas. Certainly glad that we were on the front end today."

Elliott's victory came in his 99th Cup start and was the 250th win for Hendrick Motorsports, breaking a 37-race losing streak for one of NASCAR's signature teams. It also assured Elliott a spot in the playoffs as he became only the fifth driver to win a race outside of the "Big 3" of Kyle Busch, Kevin Harvick and Truex, who have combined to win 16 of 22 races. Truex ran second to Elliott for most of the final stage and began to steadily close as both drivers tried to save enough gas to reach the end of the 90-lap race. It was a two-car breakaway as the rest of the field was more than 11 seconds back.

Truex closed to the back bumper of Elliott's No. 9 Chevy as his car bobbled slightly out of the first turn on the final lap around the 2.45-mile natural terrain layout. But Truex's No. 78 Toyota skidded, Elliott regrouped and pulled away and Truex sputtered home, out of fuel.

"I just tried all I could to chase him down, and I got there with plenty of time," Truex said. "It's just every time I'd start putting together some good corners and get close enough to him to even think about making a move, I'd get sideways behind him. He did a good job of putting his car exactly where it needed to be and not making a mistake." Truex was bidding to become the first Cup driver to win three straight road races since Tony Stewart accomplished the feat just over a decade ago (2004-05). Kyle Busch finished third, 20 seconds behind, followed by Daniel Suarez and Erik Jones, a triumvirate of Joe Gibbs Racing

Toyotas. Pole-sitter Denny Hamlin finished 13th.

The race promised to turn into a fuel mileage race as the laps wound down, and nobody has been better with the strategy than Truex and crew chief Cole Pearn. All three of Truex's road course wins were won with strategy, including last year at The Glen and this year at Sonoma in California's wine country.

"You feel satisfied," Elliott said. "It's a huge deal. It has not been an easy year. We were getting closer, closer, closer and finally got it done." Elliott won the race's second stage and brought the crowd to its feet with a pass of Busch. Elliott pulled out to a half-second lead while Truex was fighting to get back to the front after a restart mired him in 12th. Midway through the segment, the Big 3 were running in the top 10, but Elliott dominated and beat Busch by 1.3 seconds.

Busch's day was ruined when Matt DiBenedetto brought out a caution just past the midpoint of the race. The fuel probe malfunctioned on the ensuing pit stop and the crew only got a few gallons into the No. 18 Toyota. That forced him to pit again, dropping him out of contention after dominating the opening segment. "Every year we come here, we have a fast car and fail to execute, whether that's just called bad luck or whatever," Busch said. "Last year we had a lug nut get stuck in the caliper, this year we had fueling problems. It never ceases to amaze me." Other things to know about the Cup race at Watkins Glen on Sunday:

PLAYOFF FIGHT: Paul Menard was dealt a blow to his playoff chances before the race even started when his No. 21 Ford failed inspection Sunday morning and he was sent to the rear of

the 37-car field. Menard entered the race tied for 16th in points with Ricky Stenhouse Jr., who started 23rd. Stenhouse finished 16th, 12 spots ahead of Menard, and leads him by 10 points. The top 16 drivers make the 10-race playoffs, which start in mid-September, and only four races remain in the regular season. COME ONE, COME ALL: Watkins Glen International announced that reserved grandstand tickets for the race sold out for the fourth consecutive year. □



Chase Elliott (9) leads Kyle Busch (18) during a NASCAR Cup series auto race, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018, in Watkins Glen, N.Y.
Associated Press



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Zverev beats de Minaur for 2nd consecutive Citi Open title

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alexander Zverev became the first man in nearly a decade to win consecutive titles at the Citi Open, overpowering Alex de Minaur 6-2, 6-4 in the hard-court tournament final Sunday. Zverev hit six aces, topping 130 mph, and never faced a break point en route to his ninth career ATP title and third of 2018.

"You really deserved it," de Minaur told Zverev during the trophy ceremony. "Played too good today." He improved to 16-2 for his career at Washington's tuneup for the U.S. Open. Juan Martin del Potro won the event twice in a row in 2008-09.

Germany's Zverev is 21, and Australia's de Minaur is 19, making for the youngest final on the ATP World Tour since 20-year-old Rafael Nadal beat 19-year-old Novak Djokovic at Indian Wells, California, in 2007.

"I'm sure these kind of tro-



Alexander Zverev, of Germany, celebrates his win over Alex de Minaur, of Australia, in the men's finals in the Citi Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018, in Washington.

phies will be in your hands very soon," Zverev told de Minaur.

Even though Sunday's finalists are close in age, Zverev held quite an advantage in size and experience.

He is 6-foot-6, ranked No. 3 and one of only five active players with at least three Masters titles (the others are Nadal, Djokovic, Roger Federer and Andy Mur-

ray). De Minaur is 5-foot-11, ranked 72nd and yet to win a tour-level title of any sort. "Sascha Zverev is the future of pro tennis," said tournament co-founder and chairman Donald Dell, using Zverev's nickname. "He's chasing Federer and Nadal for the No. 1 spot." Zverev — who beat his older brother, Mischa, in the third round — put on

a dominant performance on a steamy afternoon with the temperature hitting 90 degrees. The sun was a contrast to all of the rain during the week that jumbled the schedule and led to Andy Murray's withdrawal before what was supposed to be a quarter-final against de Minaur. He broke de Minaur's serve in the opening game and again to lead 4-0 after all of 15 minutes, while they would go on to play for another full hour, the outcome seemed rather clear from that moment.

Zverev won 26 of 29 points when he put a first serve in, and 37 of 48 serving points in all. Of the 11 he lost, four came via double-faults. He finished the first set with a flourish, smacking a pair of aces at 123 mph and 114 mph. When de Minaur was serving, meanwhile, Zverev generated 11 break points, converting three.

Zverev's booming groundstrokes were often too much to handle for de

Minaur, whose body language often told the tale of how things were going.

With both at the net early in the second set, Zverev took the point with a crisp volley, and de Minaur rolled his eyes. A couple of points later, de Minaur pushed a forehand long, dropped his head and screamed at himself. After a 125 mph ace flew past, de Minaur nodded, as if to say: "Yep, that's good."

Zverev was a lot less demonstrative, although when he struck a down-the-line forehand passing shot to break for a 2-1 edge in the second set, he looked toward the spot in his stands where the man who taught him tennis and still coaches him — his father, Alexander Sr. — was in a front-row seat and yelled, "Let's go now!" while shaking his right fist.

Soon enough, the victory was complete, the latest step Zverev has taken in a steady march toward the top of his sport. □

Dutch win 8th Women's World Cup field hockey title

LONDON (AP) — Ireland's first Women's World Cup field hockey final ended in defeat as the Netherlands retained the title with an emphatic 6-0 victory on Sunday.

Ireland, the second-lowest ranked country in the tournament, was unable to produce a fairy-tale ending at Lee Valley Hockey Center.

Goals from Lidewij Welten, Kelly Jonker, Kitty van Male, Malou Pheninckx, Marloes Keetels and Caia van Maasakker capped a dominant performance from the Dutch as they won the competition for a record eighth time.

The Netherlands team hasn't lost since the Olympic final two years ago. This was Ireland's first World Cup since 2002, and its previous best result was 11th in 1994. Ranked 16th, Ireland topped a group including Olympic champion England and was first into the quarterfinals.

Graham Shaw's Ireland began brightly but did not manage a shot at goal until the final quarter and the Netherlands, which lifted the trophy on home soil four years ago, soon showed its superiority.

Welten put Alyson Anan's team ahead in the seventh minute, turning to hit a powerful shot through a crowded circle and past Irish goalkeeper Ayeisha McFerran at the near post.

Jonker found the bottom-left corner to double the lead in the 19th, while superb blocks from Irish pair Shirley McCay and Roisin Upton following penalty corners prevented further goals.

The free-scoring Dutch, who registered 29 goals in five matches to reach the final, put the result beyond doubt with two quick goals in the final stages of the second period.

Tournament top scorer Van Male smashed in her



The Netherlands team celebrate winning the Women's Hockey World Cup Final match between the Netherlands and Ireland, at The Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre, in London, Sunday Aug. 5, 2018.

eighth of the competition from close range and, moments later, Pheninckx was allowed too much space to fire the ball high into the net.

Shaw called for his players to "be proud" at halftime but they were outclassed

by the world's top-ranked team and powerless to stop Keetels tapping home a fifth and Van Maasakker adding another from a penalty corner. Earlier Sunday, Spain beat Australia 3-1 in the bronze-medal match.

Spain went 2-0 ahead in 14 minutes with goals from Maria Lopez and Berta Bonastre.

Kathryn Slattery pulled one back for Australia in the 40th before Alicia Magaz extended Spain's lead in the 51st.

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Alvarez KO's Kovalev to win 175-pound title in AC

By DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)

— Eleider Alvarez rocked Sergey Kovalev with a right that dropped the Russian on his rear.

He never let up in his first shot at the title.

After three years of waiting for a light heavyweight title fight, Alvarez left Kovalev crumpled on the canvas, enveloped by a victory celebration. He dropped Kovalev three times in a brutal seventh round and won the 175-pound championship by knockout at Hard Rock Hotel and Casino on Saturday night.

Alvarez ran his record to 24-0 (12 KOs) and sprinted around the ring as Kovalev stumbled back to his corner. Alvarez got the KO at 2:45 in the seventh as the sellout crowd of 5,642 at Etess Arena went wild for boxing's newest champion.

"I knew it was my chance and I wanted to take it right now," Alvarez said.

Alvarez won the WBO light heavyweight title and ended Kovalev's latest reign atop the division. Alvarez, who once had surgery on his right hand, found the power in that hand to level Kovalev with a right and send him to the canvas. Alvarez, a Colombian, pounced and pounded away at Kovalev when he beat the 10 count and knocked him down two more times before referee David Fields ended the fight.

"It was a two (punch) combo that I have been throwing my whole career and

we worked on it in camp," Alvarez said. "I have always practiced that in camp and we thought it would work in this camp."

Dmitry Bivol unanimously outpointed Isaac Chilemba to retain the WBA version of the 175-pound title. There had been hopes to match Kovalev (32-3-1) against Bivol in a unification bout, perhaps later this year.

Alvarez caught Kovalev, who hasn't been the same since consecutive defeats to Andre Ward, and put those plans on ice. His third knockdown left Kovalev on all fours, and he sat motionless on the canvas as Alvarez took a victory leap into his corner. Kovalev was taken to a hospital.

Alvarez had used wins over Jean Pascal and Lucian Bute to earn a title shot he believed was years in the making.

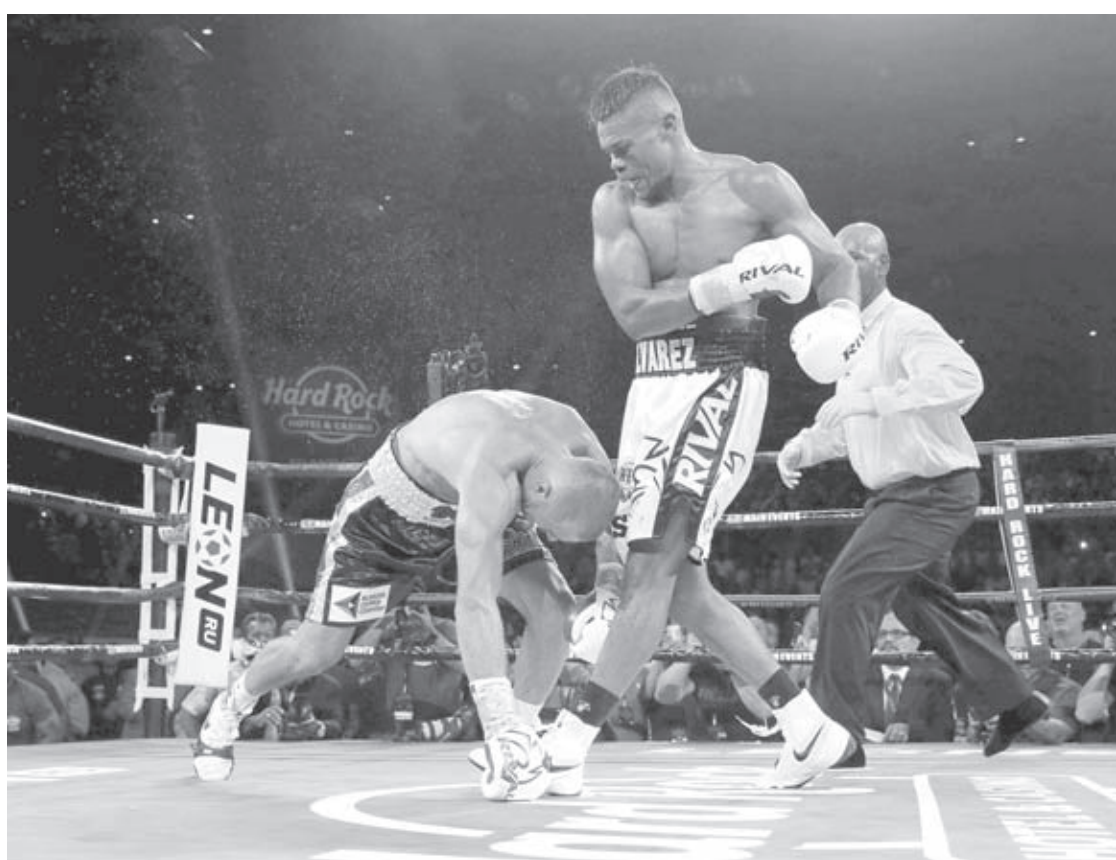
"I wanted to show that I could stay strong and do good things," Alvarez said. "His punches were not as hard as they were in the beginning of the fight."

Bivol took it 116-112 on one scorecard, while two others had it 120-108, in convincing victory.

"Chilemba is a good fighter and he had champion spirit tonight," Bivol said.

Bivol, a Russian, worked the body and caught Chilemba in the sixth with a pair of quick jabs to the head. But he was never in a hurry to finish the fight and the restless crowd booed when the bout stagnated in the eighth round.

Chilemba, with former four-



Sergey Kovalev, left, of Russia, goes down for a second time after a punch by Eleider Alvarez, of Colombia, during the seventh round of their 175-pound boxing bout Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018, in Atlantic City, N.J. Alvarez won by knockout in the seventh round.

class champion Roy Jones Jr. in his corner, hung tight and kept the fight from completely getting away from him. He failed to throw the power punches in the later rounds he needed for a knockout to win the fight. Kovalev walked through the arena to a rousing ovation about two hours before the card was set to start on HBO, and Bivol already had his sights set on what would have been the biggest fight of his career. "If the fans want that fight, it will happen," the 27-year-old Bivol said. "I just want to fight the best fighters." Who knows who he'll get next?

The 35-year-old Kovalev

could get a rematch — he was ahead on all three scorecards — but was dazed in the seventh and never mounted a comeback against the right and a left hook.

It was a thrilling ending to boxing's return to the boardwalk for the first time in four years. Kovalev also headlined that Nov. 8, 2014 card and beat Bernard Hopkins in a championship bout on the last major night of boxing in Atlantic City. The sport was flattened as the casinos dried up — five shuttered over that span — before a recent rebirth that included the June opening of the Hard Rock. The legalization of sports betting

in New Jersey should only help the city land better cards.

Kovalev had a bit of a following in New Jersey — he fought in three different AC venues in 2014 — and had rolled to a 30-0-1 record until his career as derailed by the losses to Ward.

"I lost my mind when I started to get famous," Ward said this week.

Now, he lost his title. Kovalev was originally slated to fight Marcus Browne until legal issues with the challenger raised concerns about moving forward with the bout.

Eleider proved quite the super sub — and now, champion. □

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Crackdown on 'bots' sweeps up people who tweet often

By SARA BURNETT

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Nina Tomasieski logs on to Twitter before the sun rises. Seated at her dining room table with a nearby TV constantly tuned to Fox News, the 70-year-old grandmother spends up to 14 hours a day tweeting the praises of President Trump and his political allies, particularly those on the ballot this fall, and deriding their opponents.

She's part of a dedicated band of Trump supporters who tweet and retweet Keep America Great messages thousands of times a day.

"Time to walk away Dems and vote RED in the primaries," she declared in one of her voluminous tweets, adding, "Say NO to socialism & hate."

While her goal is simply to advance the agenda of a president she adores, she and her friends have been swept up in an expanded effort by Twitter and other social media companies to crack down on nefarious tactics used to meddle in the 2016 election.

And without meaning to, the tweeters have demonstrated the difficulty such crackdowns face — particularly when it comes to telling a political die-hard from a surreptitious computer robot.

Last week, Facebook said it had removed 32 fake accounts apparently created to manipulate U.S. politics — efforts that may be linked to Russia.

Twitter and other sites also have targeted automated or robot-like accounts known as bots, which authorities say were used to cloak efforts by foreign governments and political bad actors in the 2016 elections.



This Oct. 26, 2016 file photo shows a Twitter sign outside of the company's headquarters in San Francisco.

But the screening has repeatedly and erroneously flagged Tomasieski and users like her.

Their accounts have been suspended or frozen for "suspicious" behavior — apparently because of the frequency and relentlessness of their messages. When they started tweeting support for a conservative lawmaker in the GOP primary for Illinois governor this spring, news stories warned that right-wing "propaganda bots" were trying to influence the election.

"Almost all of us are considered a bot," says Tomasieski, who lives in Tennessee but is tweeting for GOP candidates across the U.S. Cynthia Smith has been locked out of her account and "shadow banned,"

meaning tweets aren't as visible to others, because of suspected "automated behavior."

"I'm a gal in Southern California," Smith said. "I am no bot."

The actions have drawn criticism from conservatives, who have accused Twitter, Facebook and other companies of having a liberal bias and censorship. It also raises a question: Can the companies outsmart the ever-evolving tactics of U.S. adversaries if they can't be sure who's a robot and who's Nina?

"It's going to take a really long time, I think years, before Twitter and Facebook and other platforms are able to deal with a lot of these issues," said Timothy Carone, who teaches technology at Notre

Associated Press
Dame's Mendoza College of Business.

The core problem is that people are coming up with new ways to use the platforms faster than the companies can manage them, he said.

Twitter did not respond to a request for comment. But the company has said it identified and challenged close to 10 million suspected bot or spam accounts in May, up from 3.2 million last September.

It's also trying to weed out "trolls," or accounts that harass other users, pick fights or tweet material that's considered inflammatory.

Twitter acknowledges that there will be some "false positives."

"Our goal is to learn fast and make our processes

and tools smarter," Twitter executives said in a blog post earlier this year.

Tomasieski and her conservative friends use so-called Twitter "rooms" — which operate using the group messaging function — to amplify their voices.

She participates in about 10 rooms, each with 50 members who are invited in once they hit a certain number of followers. That number varies, but "newbies" might have around 3,000, Tomasieski says. Some have far more.

Everyone in the room tweets their own material and also retweets everyone else's. So a tweet that Tomasieski sends may be seen by her roughly 51,000 followers, but then be retweeted by dozens more people, each of whom may have 50,000 or more followers.

She says she's learned some tricks to avoid trouble with Twitter.

She's careful not to exceed limits of roughly 100 tweets or retweets an hour. She doesn't use profanity and she tries to mix up her subjects to appear more human and less bot-like.

During a recent afternoon, Tomasieski retweeted messages criticizing immigrants in the U.S. illegally, Democratic socialists and the media. One noted an Associated Press story about an increase in the number of Muslims running for public office — news the user described as "alarming." Tomasieski says she loves to write. But most important is helping "my guy."

"There is as much enthusiasm today as there was when Trump was elected. It's very quiet, but it's there. My job is to get them to the polls," she said.

"That's rewarding. I go to bed feeling like I have accomplished something." □

Will economic boom complicate curbing immigration?

By COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — One of President Donald Trump's priorities, low unemployment, is complicating another: curbing immigration. With the number of jobs available exceeding the number of Americans seeking jobs, employers are looking beyond the border to fill openings, and migrants are coming to the country in search of work. Hotel and restaurant owner Todd Callewaert is short more than two dozen workers this season for his Mackinac Island, Michigan, businesses. "You can't hire a line cook right now, it's impossible, even for 20 bucks an hour," he said. "We usually fill the gap with visa workers, but we can't even get those this year."

The Labor Department said Friday the unemployment rate was 3.9 percent, near the 18-year low set in May, and employers are adding jobs at a faster pace than last year.

Trump has made clear employers should be trying to attract American workers through wage increases and other incentives, not filling jobs with immigrants.

"Curbing immigration is essential to growing wages and ensuring available jobs go to American workers, not foreign workers," Deputy White House Press Secretary Hogan Gidley told AP. "As immigration curbs are put into place, more and more Americans will be absorbed back into the workforce, especially those who have been left out due to poor work history or difficult life circumstances."

The administration has made it harder to come to the U.S. for work, legally or otherwise. Work visas are costly, complicated and limited. Large-scale, job-seeking migration through a porous border is long gone.

This summer, the administration tried to deter would-be immigrants by adopting a "zero-tolerance" policy, prosecuting anyone caught crossing the border illegally. It resulted in nearly 3,000 children separated



In this April 27, 2018 file photo, a poster announcing available jobs hangs in the window of the store La Guadalupana in Florence, Ky.

Associated Press

from their parents at the border, prompting international outrage. Trump eventually stopped the separations and the government was forced by a judge to reunify families. Still, tens of thousands of people cross the border illegally every month, many seeking asylum from violence. But often, they're coming because of the prospect of work.

Dala Edison Ba Juc traveled with his 12-year-old daughter from Guatemala to the U.S. — only to be separated from her at the border, reunited and deported home. Sitting at an immigration facility in Guatemala City, he said they came for work.

"I needed to try to make a better life for my family — I wanted them to have what I could not give them here," he said. "There are many,

many jobs in the States." Frandy Frauville, 35, joined a wave of Haitians who came to Tijuana, Mexico, from Brazil starting in 2016. Brazil welcomed Haitians after Haiti's 2010 earthquake. But Frauville grew tired of factory jobs in Mexico that barely allowed him to cover rent and food, and, lured by the prospects of better work and joining family near Miami, he lined up with his 5-year-old daughter at a border crossing.

"I'll take whatever I can get," he said.

And Rolando Antonio Bueso Castillo, who was separated from his infant Johan, was making only \$10 a day driving a bus in Honduras. He was captured and quickly deported while his baby remained behind for five months.

He said he made the dif-

ficult journey because his brother had secured him a job in Maryland. Someday, he said, his son will ask what happened, and why he had left him in the United States.

"I'll tell him the truth," he said. "We thought we had a good plan to give him a better life."

Many economists say immigration is actually good for the economy and migrants provide complementary work to the jobs Americans do.

Despite Trump's push, some business owners say they just can't get Americans to fill the jobs.

A.J. Erskine is vice president of Cowart Seafood Group, which includes a Virginia oyster company of about 75 employees. "Entry-level is \$12.13 an hour," he said. "I don't know how much higher we can go without

being unable to sell oysters. He said the company has been in business more than a half-century, and that despite massive recruiting efforts, it can't keep American workers.

"We just don't have people who want to come out and shuck oysters at 3 in the morning — and I don't blame them," he said.

Some, like Erksine, are willing to front the cost associated with a temporary work visa, about \$4,000 per employee for workers holding down seasonal, non-agricultural jobs. But the visas are capped at 66,000 annually, with 15,000 additional visas this year.

Economists say the hiring crunch could be eased in part by increasing the number of visas available during boom years, and decreasing them when the economy is weaker. But those changes must be made by Congress.

Those turning a blind eye to immigration status, or hiring people with false identification face crackdowns by immigration agents. Agents raided an Ohio garden center in the summer, arresting 114 workers and accusing the business of unlawful employment of aliens and fraud.

"It's not worth the risk for us to hire people we're not sure about," said Callewaert, the hotel and restaurant owner. But a lack of staff means the business can't grow, he said.

Rep. Dave Brat, R-Virginia., a member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, said he did not think the lower unemployment rate would weaken efforts to restrict illegal immigration.

"The irony is it makes it more transparent what the real problem of the labor market is," Brat said, citing about 10 million Americans not in the labor force. He called for improved education and imposing work requirements on food stamp recipients to get more of these Americans in the workforce.

"The answer is not to bring in 10 million folks from abroad," Brat said. □

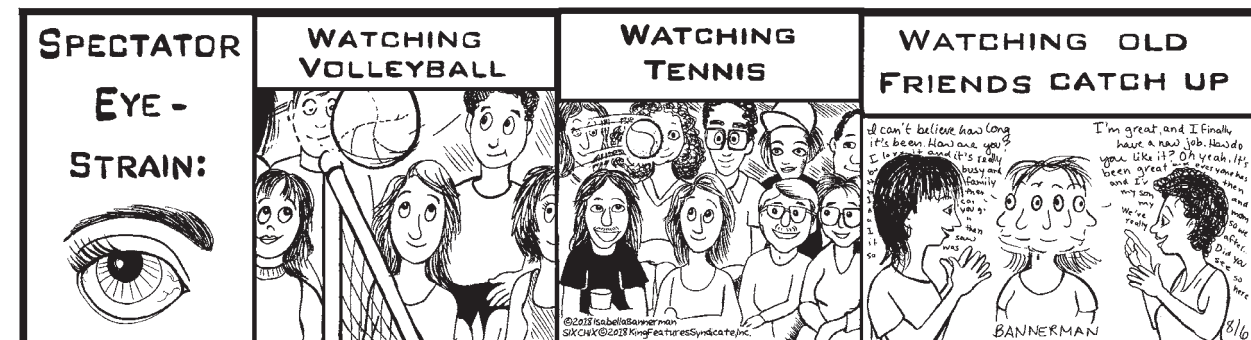
Conceptis Sudoku



	5	8		7		3		
		9						6
2					3		8	7
		2	1		6			
7			4		9			8
			2		7	5		
5	9		6					2
1						4		
		6		9		8	7	

8/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.



Saturday's puzzle answer	2	6	4	8	1	9	3	5	7
	3	9	8	5	2	7	4	1	6
	1	7	5	3	6	4	8	2	9
	8	2	9	4	5	1	7	6	3
	4	3	6	2	7	8	1	9	5
	5	1	7	6	9	3	2	4	8
	9	4	1	7	8	6	5	3	2
	6	8	2	1	3	5	9	7	4
	7	5	3	9	4	2	6	8	1



WHO WANTS TO GO TO THE POOL?

IT'S TOO HOT TO MOVE.

WHO REMEMBERS THEY HAVE A SNACK BAR WITH ICE CREAM?

WOO-HOO!!

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I HOPE SOMEBODY
WIPE THEIR FEET!

I HOPE SOMEBODY
ISN'T MESSING UP
MY KITCHEN!

I HOPE SOMEBODY
DOESN'T HAVE THEIR
FEET ON THE
COFFEE TABLE!

I WISH
SOMEBODY
WOULD PUT
A SOCK
IN IT.

I HOPE
SOME-
BODY
ISN'T
THINKING
SNIDE
COMMENTS
ABOUT HIS
MOTHER!

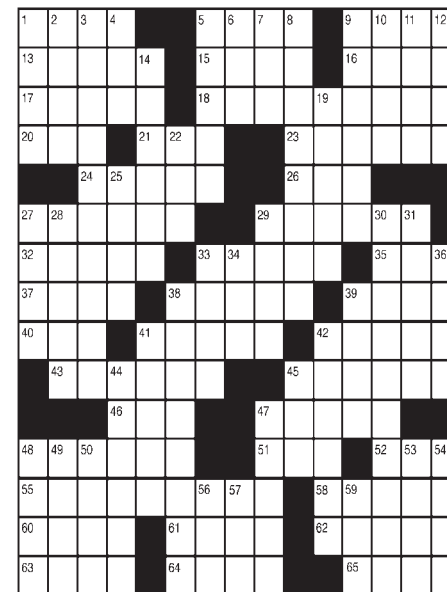
86
GUTHRIE
BORDMAN

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ACROSS

1 Vittles
5 Caesar & others
9 Straight ___ arrow
13 Monsters
15 Bank offering
16 Mexican wolf
17 "...he's making ___ and checking it twice..."
18 Insolently bold
20 Piece of chicken
21 Napper ___ Van Winkle
23 Oodles
24 Many golf clubs
26 ___ Francisco, CA
27 Capital of the Philippines
29 Sculptor's tool
32 Know-___; smarty-pants
33 In ___; flowering



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/6/

DOWN

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

- 1 Barn baby
- 2 Flirt with
- 3 In the beginning
- 4 ___ Moines
- 5 Swats
- 6 Middle of a vowel list
- 7 Papa
- 8 Photo
- 9 Martians & others
- 10 Before long
- 11 Border on
- 12 Prying
- 14 Leisurly walk
- 19 Declare one's right to
- 22 One ___ million; treasured friend
- 25 Irritate
- 27 Kennedy or Rogers
- 28 Leaning
- 29 Expense
- 30 All over
- 31 Lariat
- 33 Welcome blessing
- 34 ___ Cruces, NM
- 36 Jungle beast

L	O	W		S	A	C	K	S		E	D	G	Y		
O	A	R	S		A	L	L	I	E		N	O	N	E	
T	H	E	E		S	T	A	T	E		A	S	A	N	
	U	N	A		S	H	A	M	E	D		M	E	T	S
				R	E	A	R		L	E					
U	P	P	I	T	Y		S	K	I	L	L	E	T	S	
R	E	I	N	S		S	T	I	N	K		D	O	C	
B	A	N	G		S	W	I	N	G		P	I	T	A	
A	C	E		F	R	A	N	K		F	O	C	A	L	
N	E	S	T		L	I	N	G		C	A	S	T	L	E
				Y	U	L				C	A	R	S		
S	C	A	R		A	B	H	O	R	R	E	N	T		
P	A	P	A		N	O	O	S	E		S	O	A	K	
O	P	E	N		K	N	O	T	S		S	A	L	E	
T	E	S	T		A	N	K	A	S			H	E	N	

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38 Brass instrument	48 Grouch
39 Finished	49 Gap; opening
41 Place for an open discussion	50 Shade trees
42 "___ or leave it"	53 James ___ Jones
44 Embrace	54 Mini blind piece
45 Crime drama series	56 ___ 180; flip-flop
47 Narrow street	57 Namesakes of Dorothy's aunt
	59 File drawer, perhaps

Bring on the cake: France's baby panda has his 1st birthday

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's first baby panda celebrated his first birthday Saturday with a cake of bamboo, honey, apples, oranges, strawberries and lemons. The panda named Yuan Meng — which means "accomplishment of a dream" — weighs about 30 kilograms (66 pounds). He has recently started eating bamboo while still suckling milk from his mother, Huan Huan.

For the occasion Saturday, the Beauval Zoo south of Paris was open for free to all visitors born on Aug. 4. Yuan Meng's mother and father Yuan Zi are at Beauval on a 10-year loan from China aimed at highlighting its good ties with France.

Other nations in Europe also have giant pandas, including Austria, Britain, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Finland. French first lady Brigitte Macron, considered the panda's "godmother," did not attend Saturday's celebration. She has already gone to see the baby panda twice. □

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3BEDROM \$25k
*WK. 51 OV \$42k
*WK 52 OV \$48k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

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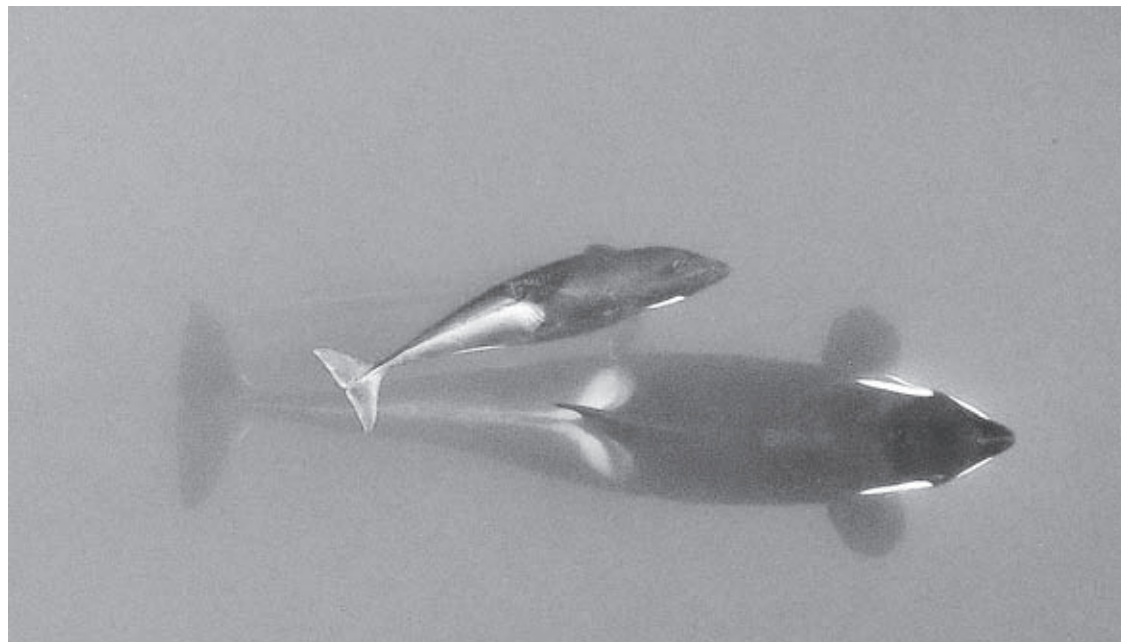
Biologists consider options to save emaciated orca

By PHUONG LE
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Federal biologists are weighing a range of emergency options to save an emaciated endangered orca, including possibly feeding it live salmon at sea dosed with medication. Whale researchers are worried about the survival of the 4-year-old female orca known as J50, a member of the dwindling population of southern resident killer whales that spends summer months in the inland waters of Washington and British Columbia.

Another female orca from the group of just 75 animals, known as J35, has attracted global attention over the past week as she has tried to keep her dead calf's body afloat while swimming miles.

Federal biologists are weighing whether and how to intervene for the young female. The options range from doing nothing to using a boat to give the orca supplemental fish to increase her hydration and nutrition. "Everything is on the table. We're working on every possibility to help," said Michael Milstein, a spokes-



This September 2015 photo provided by NOAA Fisheries shows a aerial view of adult female Southern Resident killer whale (J16) swims with her calf (J50). Federal officials are weighing options to save an emaciated endangered orca that includes feeding it live salmon dosed with medicine.

Associated Press

man with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, the agency responsible for protecting marine mammals. "The feeling is it's quite urgent given the whale's condition." NOAA Fisheries would still need federal approval from another division of the agency before it moves ahead with an intervention plan. Whale experts are focused now on collecting breath and fecal samples and taking aerial drone photographs of the whale

to assess her health and figure out what's wrong. Veterinarians hope to get out on a boat and visually do a check-up and take a sample of the white patch on the back of her head that could be a sign of an infection. "If we come up with more evidence that she's suffering from pneumonia or a fungal infection or other disease, that might be an opportunity to provide her with medication," said Michael Ford, director of the conservation biology

division at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. He said no decision has been made.

A team of top veterinarians and whale experts are exploring ways to deliver live fish — and oral medication — to the orca and doing so in such way that won't prompt the orca to become accustomed to people or boats, said Joe Gaydos, a wildlife veterinarian and science director of SeaDoc Society.

"We don't want a situa-

tion where we're trying to help the animal but end up hurting it," he added.

Gaydos said helping J50 is important because she will be the future of the population, but at the same time no one is losing sight of broader efforts to help the entire population recover. The orcas face nutritional stress because of a lack of Chinook salmon, their main diet. They also face threats from toxic contamination and vessel noise and disturbances that disrupt their ability to communicate and forage.

The whales are listed as endangered in the U.S. and Canada. Individual whales are identified by unique markings or variations in their fin shapes, and each whale is given a number and name.

Ford said the orcas are intelligent animals and can quickly understand where their food source is coming from and that could create a danger for the animals. "It's not a good long-term solution," he added.

Feeding the animal fish also won't be easy logistically and it would be a long shot. "I'm not aware of previous efforts to feed killer whales traveling with its family in the wild," Ford said. The fish-eating whales swim about 60 miles (97 kilometers) a day, and navigating close to them is tricky and risky, he said. The orca could be fed salmon by using an underwater pipe from a boat so that the animal doesn't associate the boat with food.

The black-and-white orca has appeared lethargic in recent days but has been eating, defecating and swimming with her small pod of whales, Milstein said. J50 is much skinnier and her body condition has gotten a lot worse, said John Durban, who flew a drone high above the whale Wednesday to capture images that help detect changes in the orca's body. He leads the cetacean health and life history program at NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center. □

Iceland stops hunting minke whales but only for this season

LONDON (AP) — One of Iceland's top whaling companies says it has stopped hunting minke whales this year, in response to a new government regulation that enlarged the protected area for baleen whales. The temporary halt to whaling comes about a month earlier than expected, Gunnar Jonsson, owner of whaling company IP-Utgerd Ltd said Thursday.

Jonsson said obeying the new rule would require sailing out further than normal to harpoon the whales and that to do so wasn't economically viable. He said his company would now focus on improving its boats for next year's whaling season.

"For next year, we will have to arrange something," he said, adding that they might hire more crew if

needed. The International Fund for Animal Welfare, or IFAW, called the development "very good news for minke whales and for Iceland," but noted the country had simply imported minke whale meat from Norway. The temporary interruption to hunting minke whales comes about a month after another Icelandic whaling company, Hvalur HF, was condemned

for killing a rare blue-fin whale hybrid. Last month, genetic testing at Iceland's Marine Research Institute confirmed the dead whale was indeed a hybrid blue-fin whale. Blue whales, the largest species of whales on the planet, have been protected under international law for decades. The trading of blue-fin hybrid whales or any of their parts is illegal. □

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New FX series chance to tell Latino stories from inside out

By BETH HARRIS

Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)

— The co-creator of a new series featuring Latino characters who are violent criminals is at its core about a family, albeit a damaged one that lives outside the parameters of normal society.

Kurt Sutter told a TV critics meeting on Friday that he's "really proud to have a brown cast" in "Mayans M.C.," which debuts Sept. 4 on FX.

At the time same, Sutter said he doesn't bow to outside pressure that many of the Latino characters are criminals.

"The stories that I like to tell and the characters I like to create are damaged," he said. "I never write these guys or these women from the point of view of them being dangerous or bad. I write them from the idea that they're human beings with complex feelings."



Edward James Olmos participates in the "Mayans M.C." panel during the FX Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour, Aug. 3, 2018, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

The show picks up 2½ years after the events of Sutter's "Sons of Anarchy" and focuses on that series' rivals-turned-allies, the Mayans Motorcycle Club.

"People didn't show up for 'Sons' because it was about (expletive) outlaws," Sutter said. "It was about a (expletive) family."

Co-creator Elgin James

said he grew up in a world of gangs and violence, and he sees the show as a chance to tell Latino stories from personal experience.

"I don't know what it's like

to grow up in a functional family, I don't know what it's like to grow up in a supportive family," James said. "But I do know that I have these stories that I have to tell and this damage inside me that I have to get out." James noted that many of the people working in front of and behind the camera on the show grew up in poverty amid violence and incarceration.

"This is the first time we get to tell our own stories from the inside out, which is incredibly important to me," he said. "I don't want any nice people ... to tell me I can't tell my story."

Among the cast is Edward James Olmos, Danny Pino, JD Pardo, and Emilio Rivera, who was in "Sons of Anarchy."

Olmos starred in the PBS series "American Family" that ran from 2002-04 and was the first broadcast TV drama featuring a mostly Latino cast. □

Crazy Fish Monday at BUGALOE





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Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is perfectly located between the Riu Palace Hotel and Hilton Resort on the famous Palm Pier with stunning 360° views of the crystal clear ocean. Open daily from 7.30am till midnight, Mondays are known as Crazy Fish Mondays for the delicious fresh fish dishes the chef at Bugaloe serves up.

Crazy Fish Mondays include a Fried Fish Basket for \$13, Red Snapper for just \$20 or Mahi Mahi for only \$18. Fresher than fresh is the motto of Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill. Caught in the morning, served at night... That's the Bugaloe way!

In addition to Crazy Fish Mondays, Bugaloe has a weekly line-up of live entertainment and daily happy hours from 5-6pm and 10-11pm. Follow your tapping feet down to the music where smiles and fun await you! Reservations are recommended.

Located at De Palm Pier between the Hilton Resort and Riu Hotel T: (+297) 586-2233 | info@bugaloe.com | www.Bugaloe.com  

'Christopher Robin' a return to Hundred Acre Wood

By JAKE COYLE

Oh, bother.

The misfortune of "Christopher Robin" is not only that it comes a year after "Goodbye Christopher Robin," an earnest if sentimental tale about Winnie-the-Pooh author A.A. Milne and his son, Christopher Robin Milne, but that it arrives a few months after the screwball radiance of "Paddington 2." When it comes to bears in London this movie year, our hearts are already spoken for.

But for those who prefer honey to marmalade, "Christopher Robin" is a more gentle and melancholic fable about recapturing the joys of childhood as an adult with the help of a wise and innocent bear. It's telling that in Marc Forster's comparatively somber but sweet movie, the standout of Milne's furry creatures — all of them rendered digitally as worn-out stuffed animals — is that old grump Eeyore (voiced by Brad Garrett), whose morose mutterings land nearly all the film's laughs.

Humor has never been



This image released by Disney shows, from left, Bronte Carmichael, Ewan McGregor and Hayley Atwell in a scene from "Christopher Robin."

Associated Press

the forte of Forster ("Finding Neverland," "Quantum of Solace"), so don't come to "Christopher Robin" expecting hijinks from Tigger or a single overstuffed bear stuck in a doorway. Instead Forster has fashioned a meticulously handsome post-WWII period drama — perhaps one more for adults

than children — leaning much closer to "The Velveteen Rabbit" than Saturday morning cartoon. There's a degree of atonement in the stylistic shift; the real Christopher Robin (never a fan of the books) lamented the Disneyfication of his father's characters and never accepted royalties. And as

with Disney's 2106's "Pete's Dragon," there's an unlikely, largely indie collection of filmmakers behind a relatively modest live-action revival. Alex Ross Perry ("Listen Up Philip"), Tom McCarthy ("Spotlight") and Allison Schroeder ("Hidden Figures") wrote the script. In the opening scenes in

the fictional land of the Hundred Acre Wood, Pooh and the rest are giving young Christopher Robin a farewell party. "Don't you get all grow-ed up on us," Tigger tells him. But after a page-turning montage, Christopher Robin has indeed done just that. He's now a working, married man in London, wed to Evelyn (Hayley Atwell), with a daughter named Madeline (Bronte Carmichael) and a grueling job. He's an efficiency manager for a luggage company housed in a towering gray building. The demands of his work have drained all the fun out of Christopher Robin, whose middle name has been upgraded to surname. He hasn't so much as smiled in years, Evelyn says. But on a particularly crucial work weekend, out pops Pooh from a Hundred Acre Wood portal from the trunk of a tree outside Christopher's town house. The voice is instantly recognizable (Pooh veteran Jim Cummings voices him, as well as Tigger) though the form is a little novel. □

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AUGUST 2 - 8

NEW THIS WEEK

**THE DARKEST MINDS**
AMANDA STENBERG | HARRIS DICKINSON
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MONTHU 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35
FRI 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55
SAT 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35

**SPY WHO DUMPED ME**
MILA KUNIS | KATE MCKINNON
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]
MONTHU 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20
FRI 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
SAT 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20

**Christopher Robin**
EWAN MCGREGOR | HAYLEY ATWELL
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]
MONTHU 4:25 | 6:45 | 9:05
FRI 4:25 | 6:45 | 9:05 | 11:25
SAT 2:05 | 4:25 | 6:45 | 9:05 | 11:25
SUN & HOL 2:05 | 4:25 | 6:45 | 9:05

**MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE
FALLOUT**
TOM CRUISE | HENRY CAVILL
CXC PREMIUM LARGE FORMAT AUDITORIUM
MON-FRI 6:00 | 9:05
SAT-SUN 2:55 | 6:00 | 9:05
MONTHU 4:45 | 7:50
FRI 4:45 | 7:50 | 10:55
SAT 1:40 | 4:45 | 7:50 | 10:55
SUN & HOL 1:40 | 4:45 | 7:50

**TANGO & CASH**
NICOLAS CAGE | KRISTEN BELL
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]
MON-FRI 5:15 | 7:15
SAT-SUN 3:15 | 5:15 | 7:15

**SKYSCRAPER**
DWAYNE JOHNSON | NEVE CAMPBELL
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MONTHU 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:25
FRI 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:40
SAT 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:25

**MAMMA MIA!
HERE WE GO AGAIN**
AMANDA SEYFRIED | LILY JAMES
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MONTHU & SUN 9:00
FRI-SAT 9:00 | 11:30

**HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3
SUMMER VACATION**
ADAM SANDLER | SELENA GOMEZ
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]
MON-FRI 4:40 | 6:50
SAT & SUN 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50

**EQUALIZER**
DENZEL WASHINGTON | PEDRO PASCAL
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]
MONTHU & SUN 9:15
FRI-SAT 9:15 | 11:25

STARTING AUGUST 9: THE MEG, SLENDER MAN

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**THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES
ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE**

Barry Chuckle of UK comedy duo Chuckle Brothers dies at 73



This Feb. 3, 2014 file photo shows the Chuckle Brothers, Barry and Paul Elliott in London.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British children's entertainer Barry Chuckle, half of sibling duo the Chuckle Brothers, has died at age 73. Manager Phil Dale said Sunday that Chuckle, whose real name was Barry Elliott, died at home after an illness, "surrounded by his wife, Ann, and all his family." No other details were

disclosed. Barry and his younger brother Paul came from a family of entertainers in northern England — their father performed alongside a young Peter Sellers — and developed a double act that combined visual gags, catchphrases and the brothers' natural warmth.

They became icons to British children with their TV show "ChuckleVision," which ran on the BBC between 1987 and 2009. The brothers typically undertook a new task in each episode, producing slapstick results. The duo were awarded a special British Academy award in 2008 for their contribution to children's television. They recently filmed a new show, "Chuckle Time," for Britain's Channel 5. Paul Chuckle said he had "not just lost my brother, I've lost my theatrical partner of many, many years and my very best friend." Comedian and author David Walliams tweeted that the brothers were "really special performers" and "the last link to the British Musical Hall tradition that gave us Stan Laurel & Charlie Chaplin." □

The Algonquin Hotel throws a 'purrty,' feline fashion show

By LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The "meowdels" wore couture and the crowd was cat-tastic at The Algonquin Hotel's annual feline fashion show, presided over by the historic Times Square establishment's 12th resident cat, a ginger boy with a theatrical name, Hamlet VIII.

Thursday's theme for the catwalk and lobby party, with some human attendees in cat-ear headbands and feline-adorned finery, was "The Purring '20s." That's the era that Dorothy Parker, George S. Kaufman, Alexander Woollcott and other writers, critics, actors and all-around wits first sat around the hotel's famed Round Table.

Hamlet VIII made his party debut this year, perched in his treehouse at the front desk, strutting for guests in a sparkly silver bow tie as about 150 human partiers munched on hors d'oeuvres and sipped wine. Their camera phones were at the ready as four-legged models were held by their owners for a red carpet walk, including a tiny cutie just a month old, a black rescue named Frank Sinatra. His bespoke ensemble included a puffy red newsboy hat.

The event is a fundraiser



In this Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018 photo, photographers take photos of Merlin, dressed in a 1920s tuxedo and top hat on red carpet during cat fashion show at Algonquin Hotel in New York.

Associated Press

for the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, which helps support more than 150 animal shelters and rescues in New York. Organizers said more than \$10,000 was expected to be raised, fueled in part by \$75-a-pop ticket sales and a silent auction.

As for the fashion, it came courtesy of "certified" pet fashion designer Ada Nieves. Leather? Absolutely not, she told The Associated Press in a pre-show interview. There were Art Deco touches in crystals and

laces, a pink-fringe flapper dress and feather head band worn by a longhair named Aine, and a knockout orange youngster that goes by Mango in bowler hat and double-breasted tuxedo.

A chill girl rescue named Sake got a wide-brim garden hat and lavender low-waisted dress a la the Roaring '20s, while Baloo scored a striped zoot suit for his big runway moment.

The long history of cats presiding at The Algonquin

is a bit murky but dates to the early '20s with Billy, who during the heyday of the Round Table belonged to hotel owner and manager Frank Case. After Billy passed away, so the story goes, a stray marmalade cat made his way into the hotel in the early 1930s and was declared Rusty. The name didn't sit well with actor John Barrymore, a hotel resident at the time, so Rusty became the first Hamlet, honoring what is said to have been Barry-

more's greatest stage role.

"They thought the name Hamlet was more dignified for the Algonquin," said Alice De Almeida, the hotel's Chief Cat Officer. "And a legend was born."

Hamlet is, indeed, the eighth Hamlet at the Algonquin, which has also been home to three cats named Matildas — rescues each and every one.

"We have no clue who picked the name Matilda or why," De Almeida said.

The current Hamlet is a people cat, though he's not terribly fond of huge TV cameras. He loves a good scratch behind the ears, De Almeida said. The hotel chef cooks him special meals on holidays and his portrait hangs above the front desk. The white-glove treatment for felines stretches back to Rusty, who had the run of the hotel (Hamlet VIII is restricted to the front desk area) and was given milk out of a Champagne glass, De Almeida said. As for the Round Table crowd and whether they were cat people, she wasn't sure.

"We know Dorothy Parker had dogs," De Almeida said. "At that time there was no board of health, so Rusty was in and out of rooms, and they had a special door for him to go in and out of the kitchen." □

US art collector returns 12 ancient artifacts to Thailand

By KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA

BANGKOK (AP) — A private American collector has returned a dozen ancient artifacts to Thailand as the Southeast Asian country presses for other treasures that were taken abroad to be given back.

Culture minister Vira Rojpojanarat said the artifacts were given by Katherine Ayers-Mannix to the Thai Embassy in Washington, D.C., which shipped them back to Thailand.

The items are believed to have mostly come from a prehistoric civilization dating back more than 4,000 years that was centered around Ban Chiang, in what is now Thailand's



In this undated photo, in Thailand, a clay vessel believed to be from the 4,000-year-old civilization of northeastern Thailand known as the Ban Chiang, is on display.

Associated Press

northeastern province of Udon Thani.

Vira, speaking Thursday at a news conference in Bangkok, said Thailand is seeking the return from museums in the United States of other items that were taken illegally from the country, and has been gathering evidence to back its claims.

Thai officials have been tracking artifacts such as nine ancient Buddhist relics that are on display at the Norton Simon Museum in California, as well as 17 other relics on display at the Honolulu Museum of Art in Hawaii. He said 14 out of the 17 items in Hawaii have been confirmed to have Thai origins, and that infor-

mation has been forwarded to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as part of Thailand's quest to have them returned.

Anandha Chuchoti, director general of Thailand's Fine Arts Department, said Thai officials are also providing evidence to prove that two ancient lintels on display at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco were stolen from ancient temples in Thailand's northeastern provinces of Buriram and Sa Kaeo.

"We want to send (information) to confirm that these lintels have Thai origins and had made their way out of the kingdom illegally," Anandha said, adding that

the two lintels are no longer on display as the claims and effort to recall the items are being considered.

The U.S. government in 2014 returned 554 ancient artifacts, mostly pottery, that had been taken from Ban Chiang, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The pieces were recovered in a 2008 raid on the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, California, which agreed to return the items to Thailand in exchange for none of its staff facing criminal charges. The raid was part of a multiyear investigation in which three other California museums and two private art dealerships were also raided. □

The Green Big Apple: New Yorkers document the city's plants

By EMILIANO RODRIGUEZ
MEGA

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Susan Hewitt found a special prize recently while wandering the streets of New York. The 70-year-old spotted a mysterious patch of bright green leaves with tiny white flowers in a raised flower bed. It turned out to be tropical Mexican clover, a weed common in South America and Florida's orange groves, but never recorded before in the state. "I get a tremendous kick out of identifying things," she said. "There's nothing more exciting."

Hewitt volunteers for an ambitious project to photograph all the wild plants that dwell in New York City. On Friday, the organizers announced that citizen scientists had catalogued more than 26,000 sightings, and documented new populations of invasive species and native weeds that seem to be disappearing, like the green comet milkweed.

Started last year by scientists at the New York Botanical Garden, the effort makes up for the lack of manpower to survey the entire city.

"There are just not enough of us," said Regina Alvarez, a professor at Dominican College in New York who isn't part of the effort. "What we're studying requires a lot of data and it's really hard for the number of scientists that are out there to do all that work."



In this July 26, 2018 photo, Daniel Atha holds specimen of swamp rose he collected in 2014, when working to document all Central Park's naturally occurring plants in New York.

Associated Press

The project so far has attracted 730 volunteers armed with smartphones who've hit the streets for the quest, called New York City EcoFlora.

Hewitt, a self-described naturalist who grew up near the English village where Charles Darwin lived, made her discovery last month in front of a massive apart-

ment building in Manhattan's Upper East Side. She fires up her iPhone X every time she spots something new or interesting. A fragile tree seedling sticking out of a manhole cover? Click. A white petunia hidden among weeds? Click. Botanist Brian Boom, who heads the project, said the scientific community wasn't really thinking about the need to engage with regular folks when he was a graduate student in the early 1980s.

"There was a sense of, 'This is what we do. And you can go out and look at the birds and that's great. But, you know, we'll do the science,'" he said.

Not anymore. Scientists have become increasingly aware of how citizens can contribute to their research. Digital platforms like iNaturalist, a mobile app where citizens share their observations of plants and animals, estimate that people have made dozens of notewor-

thy discoveries around the world. And a 2017 study found that more than half the material in the Global Biodiversity Information Facility — an open-access database with information about all types of life on Earth — comes from volunteers.

"Many citizens are experts in their own way," said Mark Chandler, a field biolo-

gist at Earthwatch Institute in Boston who isn't part of the project. "If we can get them to start recording the (biodiversity) in their backyards, they can really make a huge contribution."

Citizen scientists in the EcoFlora effort have documented at least six plants never recorded before in New York state and two new plants for North America. The observations already are helping prepare for future threats. In July, the project challenged its volunteers to locate every tree of heaven in the city. These rapidly growing trees with pale gray bark and a stinky smell are the preferred host of an Asian moth that can harm crops and forests. Mapping the host plant will allow researchers know where to look for the insect once it shows up.

"It hasn't been found in New York (state) yet. But it'll come," said botanist Daniel Atha. "For sure, it'll come."

Volunteers have their own reasons for participating. Zihao Wang, 29, used to look for plants on his own, exploring the green patches he found on Google Maps. Now, he's one of the most active members with 538 species identified so far. When he's not hunting for plants as a hobby, he works for the city's parks department.

"I want to see a version of New York City that's different from everybody else's," Wang said. "I'm always surprised by how much nature still exists here." □



In this July 27, 2018 photo, Susan Hewitt photographs a daisy-like weed known as 'shaggy soldier' and adds it to iNaturalist, the app she uses to participate in the New York City EcoFlora project.

Associated Press



In this July 26, 2018 photo, Daniel Atha, left, and Brian Boom, right, look at two New York Botanical Garden specimens of a hardy plant called Italian arum in New York.

Associated Press